Lynchings- 1936
Cases of 6

Arkansas.

5259

NEW YORK, N. Y.
TIMES

APR 30 1936

Mob Kills Arkansas Negro, 19

LEPANTO, Ark., April 29 (AP).—A 19-year-old Negro accused of an attempted attack on a white woman here April 18 was taken from the city marshal early today by a masked mob and shot to death. The Negro, Willie Kees, was found at the edge of town with his hands bound behind his back and three bullet wounds in his body. One shot pierced his heart.

Negro Is Lynched By Arkansas Mob

Daily Worker

LEPANTO, Ark., April 30.—An outburst of mob violence against the Negro people here today resulted in the lynching of Willie Kees, nineteen-year-old Negro boy framed for "attempted assault" of a white woman.

5-1-36

This is the third outburst of lynch terror against Negro workers in the past forty-eight hours. Tuesday, Lint Shaw, an innocent fifty-year-old Negro farmer, was hanged from a tree after his body was riddled with 100 bullet wounds. He, also, was charged with "attempted assault" of a white woman.

Walter Miller, a thirty-five-year-old Negro worker, narrowly escaped lynching when he was arraigned in Huntsville, Ala., for "assaulting and murdering" a white girl. Miller pleaded not guilty.

Jay May, city marshal of Lepanto said that Kees was just a "half-witted petty thief." The young Negro was seized by a lynch mob of ten men. The city marshal made no effort to prevent the seizure.

"I couldn't recognize any of the men," the marshal said.

Justice of the Peace W. T. Thurman hurriedly found that Kees came to his "death from gunshot wounds at the hands of parties unknown."

Kees was found dead two hours after he had been kidnaped, with his wrists wired behind his back and three bullet holes in his body. He was arrested with not even a claim of evidence against him.

N. Y. EVENING POST

APR 30 1936

SOUTHERN MOBS IN 3D RACE RIOT

Masked Band of 10 Kills Negro Accused of Attacking Girl in Arkansas

LE7PANTO, Ark., April 30 (AP).—Three outbursts of mob violence within forty-eight hours—the slaying of two Negroes and a demonstration against a third which was frustrated by National Guardsmen—centered attention on the Southern race problem today.

All the Negroes were accused of crimes against women.

Willie Kees, nineteen, described by City Marshal Jay May as a half-witted petty thief, was shot to death by a band of ten men who wrested him from officers here yesterday.

Tuesday Burly Lint Shaw, forty-five-year-old Negro farmer, fell victim of rifle and shotgun fire of forty men at the scene of an attempted attack on two white girls near Colbert, Ga. The mob, which broke into a jail to get him, left his body tied to a pine tree.

National Guardmen used tear gas to disperse a throng at Huntsville, Ala., that threatened Walter Miller when he was arraigned yesterday on charges of assaulting and slaying pretty Vivian Woodward, nineteen.

Miller pleaded innocent. Adjutant General John C. Coleman said troops would guard him at the trial, set for May 11.

Kees, who was accused of attempted assault, was found dead at the edge of Lepanto two hours after he was kidnaped, his wrists wired behind his back and three bullet holes through his body.

May said he learned Monday Kees was staying at the home of another Negro near the town and that there were rumors a mob was going after him. Early yesterday he went to find him.

"I went to the house and arrested him," May said, "and was bringing him back to jail when the ten men drove up in two cars, right at the place where Kees tried to attack the woman. Seven of them gathered around me, while three grabbed Kees."

The men, wearing burlap sacks over their heads, covered him with guns, May said, shoved Kees into one of the cars, and drove away.

"I couldn't recognize any of the men," the marshal said.

Justice of the Peace W. T. Thurman at an inquest returned a verdict of "death from gunshot wounds at the hands of parties unknown."

A similar verdict was returned in the Shaw lynching at Colbert.

Brunswick, Ga., News
April 30, 1936

Occur Within Period of 48 Hours In Arkansas With Two Deaths Reported; Officers Turn Attention to Section

Lepanto, Ark., April 30. (AP)—Three outbursts of mob violence within 48 hours—the slaying of two negroes and a demonstration against a third which was frustrated by national guardsmen—drew the attention of southern peace officers today.

All the negroes were accused of crimes against women.

Willie Kees, 19, described by City Marshal Jay May as a "half-witted" petty thief, was shot to death by a band of ten masked men who wrested him from officers here yesterday.

Tuesday burly Ling Shaw, 45-year-old negro farmer, fell victim of rifle and shotgun fire of 40 men at the scene of an attempted attack on two white girls near Colbert, Ga. The mob, which broke into a jail to get him, left his body tied to a pine tree.

National guardsmen were forced to resort to tear gas to disperse a throng at Huntsville, Ala., that threatened Walter Miller when he was arraigned yesterday on charges of assaulting and slaying pretty Vivian Woodward, 19.

Miller pleaded innocent. Adjt. Gen. John C. Coleman said troops would guard him at the trial, set for May 11.

MOB LYNCHES NEGRO AFTER ATTACK MOVE

Commercial Appeal

Taken From Lepanto Marshal and Shot To Death

4-30-36

LEPANTO, Ark., April 29.—Willie Kees, 19, negro, was shot to death here this morning at 5:50 o'clock by a crowd of masked men, after he was forcibly taken from Jay May, city marshal.

Deputy Sheriff Mert Walker said today that Kees attempted to assault a woman on Saturday night, April 18, for which he was given a severe whipping and ordered to leave town.

He returned, however, Monday and was arrested by Marshal May this morning, who was taking him to jail when the mob demanded the prisoner.

May was overpowered and the negro forced into a car and swished to the east end of Lepanto, where his hands were tied with a piece of wire and then shot three times. One bullet went through his heart, another in his back and a third into the left leg.

The mob dispersed. When the negro was found, nobody was in sight. Kees, when acting as houseboy for Dr. C. E. Byler a few years ago, stole his car, for which he was given a jail sentence. He was later made a trusty at the jail and then stole a wagon and team from A. H. Landers, who was sheriff at that time.

This is the first lynching to occur in Poinsett County.

Burlap-Hooded Mob Lynches "Half-Wit"

LE PANTO, Ark.—A 19-year old youth characterized as being "half witted" was lynched Wednesday night by a mob whose members wore burlap sacks over their heads. His hands were tied behind him when his body was discovered at the edge of the city, five bullet holes in his back. One shot had pierced his heart.

The youth, Willie Kees, according to officers had been arrested on April 18 after it was claimed that he had attempted to assault a white woman, although no charges had been preferred against him by the alleged victim.

Police officers had released him, ordering him to leave town, they said, but it was later discovered that he was staying with relatives on the edge of the town.

Officers, who claimed they learned a mob was assembling to get him; rushed to the house and placed Kees under arrest again, and were returning to the jail when the mob mysteriously appeared and overpowered the police officers.

Marshall May charged that seven members of the masked mob held guns on him, while the other three roughly transferred Kees to another automobile.

The officer admitted that no attempt had been made by authorities to identify members of the mob.

SENTINEL

Manila Ark

MAY 1 - 1936

NEGRO LYNCHED AT LEPANTO BY MOB

Taken From Town Marshal and Shot.

An angry mob of masked men took Willie Kees, negro, from Jay May, Lepanto city marshal, about 6 o'clock Wednesday morning and shot him.

It was reported that Kees had attempted to assault a woman Saturday night, April 18, for which he was given a severe beating and ordered to leave town. He returned, however, and was arrested by Marshal May, and was being taken to jail when the mob demanded the prisoner.

May was overpowered and the negro forced into a car and swished to the east end of Lepanto, where his hands were tied with a piece of wire and then shot three times. One bullet went through his heart, another in his back and a third into the left leg.

The mob dispersed. When the negro was found nobody was in sight. Kees, when acting as houseboy for Dr. C. E. Byler a few years ago, stole his car, for which he was given a jail sentence. He was later made a trusty at the jail and then stole a wagon and team from A. H. Landers, who was sheriff at that time.

This is the first lynching to occur in Poinsett County.

Pres [illegible] 12-4-36

See — Mrs. Ames correspondence, May, 1937

Constitution 5-19-37

ARKANSAS GOVERNOR DENIES WEEKS LYNCHING

N.A.A.C.P.

New York, N.Y.

New York, Dec. 4,- In response to an inquiry by the N.A.A.C.P., the office of Governor J. M. Futrell of Arkansas has replied that it has no evidence of the lynching of Frank Weems. Weems is a Negro sharecropper who disappeared about a year ago under circumstances which led to the belief that he had been lynched by night-riders or hired thugs of plantation owners. Weems was active in the organization of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union and it is believed that this activity was responsible for his disappearance.

Protests by the S.T.F.U. led the sheriff of the county and Governor Futrell to announce that Weems was not dead and that they would produce him at the proper time. Months have passed and nothing has been heard of Weems, hence the inquiry by the N.A.A.C.P.

The N.A.A.C.P. has written Governor Futrell again asking if his office has any evidence that Weems has not been lynched; and if his office has any evidence that Weems is alive.

Reported as a Lynching in 1936 Report.

"Found Alive."

ISSING SHARECROPPER OUND ALIVE IN NORTH

5-19-37 Plain D.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., May 18.—(AP) Controversy over the disappearance of Frank Weems, 46-year-old Arkansas negro sharecropper, last June 9, was reawakened today with announcement by J. R. Butler, president of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, that Weems had been "found alive" in Chicago.

"We are glad that our fears as to Weems' death proved untrue," he said. "We have never ceased trying to find out what really happeend to him."

When Weems disappeared, H. L. Mitchell, secretary of the tenant farmer union, charged he had been beaten by planters near Early, Ark. He announced plans for a "funeral," after he said he heard Weems was dead.

Lynchings-1936
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5257

Douglas, Ga., Progress
May 7, 1936

THREE NEGROES LYNCHED IN WEEK

TUSKEEGEE, Ala., May 4 — Mob violence which claimed the lives of three Negroes in the deep south in less than a week did not establish a record total of lynch victims, Monroe N. Work, compiler of lynching statistics for Tuskeegee Institute, said today.

The record of 11 persons lynched in a single week was set in 1918, Work said.

Rushin, 55-year-old Negro accused of the slaying of Marion Tate, 24 year-old white man, was shot to death yesterday at Pavo, Ga., by a mob which took him from Deputy Sheriff Herbert Kennedy, after bloodhounds had followed a trail from Pate's body to the Negro's hiding place.

Lint Shaw, 45, was the first of mob victims. He was taken from the Royston, Ga., jail Thursday and shot to death near Colbert, Ga., scene of a reported attempt to attack two white girls.

The following day, ten masked men seized Willie Kees from a marshal at Lepanto, Ark. He was found slain near the spot where he was accused of an attempted attack on a white woman.

Work said the Rushin lynching was the fourth in the nation for 1936.

Cordele, Ga. News
May 7, 1936

THREE NEGROES LYNCHED IN WEEK

RECORD TOTAL OF 1918 STILL UNBROKEN, HOWEVER, WHEN 11 WERE KILLED BY MOBS.

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Work said the Rushin lynching was the fourth in the nation for 1936.

Pelham, Ga., Journal
May 7, 1936

Three Are Lynched During Past Week

TUSKEGEE, Ala., May 7— (AP)—Mob violence which claimed the lives of three Negroes in the deep south in less than a week did not establish a record total of lynch victims, Monroe N. Work, compiler of lynching statistics for Tuskegee Institute said today.

The record of 11 persons lynched in a single week was set in 1918, Work said.

Rushin, 55 year old Negro accused of the slaying of Marion Pate, 24 year old white man, was shot to death late Sunday at Pavo, Ga., by a mob which took him from Deputy Sheriff Herbert Kennedy, after bloodhounds had followed a trail from Pate's body to the Negro's hiding place.

Lint Shaw, 45, was the first of mob victims. He was taken from the Royston, Ga., jail Thursday and shot to death near Colbert, Ga., scene of a reported attempt to attack two white girls.

The following day, ten masked men seized Willie Kees from a marshal at Lepanto, Ark. He was found slain near the spot where he was accused of an attempted attack on a white woman.

Work said the Rushin lynching was the fourth in the nation for 1936.

Savannah, Ga., News
May 5, 1936

NOT A RECORD

Two Lynchings In Week Not a Precedent

TUSKEGEE, Ala., May 4 (AP).—Mob violence which claimed the lives of three negroes in the deep South in less than a week did not establish a record total of lynch victims, Monroe N. Work, compiler of lynching statistics for Tuskegee Institute, said today.

The record of eleven persons lynched in a single week was set in 1918, Work said.

Rushin, 55-year-old negro accused of the slaying of Marion Tate, 24-year-old white man, was shot to death yesterday at Pavo, Ga., by a mob which took him from Deputy Sheriff Herbert Kennedy, after bloodhounds had followed a trail from Tate's body to the negro's hiding place.

Lint Shaw, 45, was the first of the mob victims. He was taken from the Royston, Ga., jail Tuesday and shot to death near Colbert, Ga., scene of a reported attempt to attack two white girls.

The following day, ten masked men seized Willie Kees from a marshal at Lepanto, Ark. He was found slain near the spot where he was accused of an attempted attack on a white woman.

Work said the Rushin lynching was the fourth in the nation for 1936.

Cartersville, Ga., News
May 7, 1936

Three Negroes Lynched in Week

Record Total of 1918 Still Unbroken, However, When 11 Were Killed By Mobs

Tuskeegee, Ala.—Mob violence which claimed the lives of three Negroes in the deep south in less than a week did not establish a record total of lynch victims, Monroe N. Work, compiler of lynching statistics for Tuskeegee Institute, said today.

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Rushin, 55-year-old Negro accused of the slaying of Marion Tate, 24-year-old white man, was shot to death yesterday at Pavo, Ga., by a mob which took him from Deputy Sheriff Herbert Kennedy, after bloodhounds had followed a trail from Tate's body to the Negro's hiding place.

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The following day, ten masked men seized Willie Kees from a marshal at Lepanto, Ark. He was found slain near the spot where he was accused of an attempted attack on a white woman.

Work said the Rushin lynching was the fourth in the nation for 1936.

Pavo Victim Buried

Pavo, Ga., May 4—The body of John Rushin, 55-year-old Negro who was lynched near here, was buried at the county poor farm today after having been moved to a school house yard by a band of unidentified men following a coroner's inquest. ✓

The Negro, the third to die at the hands of mobs in the south within a week, was shot to death last night in revenge for the slaying of Marion Tate, 24, in a scuffle with three white men on a truck.

The mob apparently had shot Rushin and them dumped his body into a stream nearby. When officers arrived the body was on a bank and a boy at the scene told of seeing men pull it out of the stream some time after the lynching.

The coroner returned a verdict of death from gunshot wounds at the hands of unknown persons.

After the inquest the body was taken to the school yard where it lay for several hours.

Officers said they were unable to learn anything of the identity of the killers.

Last Thursday Lint Shaw, 45, was taken from the Royston, Ga., jail and shot to death at the scene of a reported attempt to attack two white girls near Colbert, Ga..

Next day, masked men seized Willie Kees, accused of an attempted attack on a white woman, and shot him near Lepanto, Ark.

Mobs in Dixie Murder 2 Men

Amsterdam News

Georgia and Arkansas Victims Sought by Lynchers Before

5-2-36

LEPANTO, Ark., April 30.—Willie Kees, 19, who was questioned April 18 and warned to leave town after a white woman said he attempted to attack her, was taken from the city marshal and shot to death by a mob here yesterday.

N. York

Officers said they saved Kees from a mob earlier this month when he was seized near a bridge after a woman screamed. Probably convinced that no charge would stand up in court, they released him from jail, where he was taken.

COLBERT, Ga., April 30.—The third attempt to lynch Lint Shaw, farmer and father of eleven children, proved successful Tuesday.

Shaw was arrested at his home a few weeks ago and accused of attempting to attack two white girls on a road near here while they were on their way to get aid to start their stalled automobile. The prisoner said he had been asleep at home when the alleged attack attempt occurred, and was arrested when he came out to learn what had caused the commotion and screams on the road a considerable distance away.

A mob attempted to take him from officers the day he was arrested, but he was rushed to Danielsville for safe keeping. There another mob formed and Shaw was saved when Judge Berry T. Moseley arose from his sick bed, warned the mob and instructed the sheriff to deputize the lynch-bent crowd. Shaw had been wounded a few hours before when he attacked officers with a knife in the jail.

National Guardsmen arrived shortly after and removed the wounded man to Atlanta, where he remained until returned to Colbert for trial. He was taken from jail by a mob on his return, hanged to a tree and shot.

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., April 30.—Tear gas hurled by members of the

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tional Guard saved Walter Miller
rom being lynched when he was ar-
aigned yesterday for the alleged
urder of Vivian Woodward, white
he was slugged to death March 28

Miller pleaded not guilty and was
returned to Birmingham with a
guard of 112 militiamen. His trial
will be held May 11.

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5258

LYNCHING ON RISE AGAIN IN STATE

Atlanta World

Violence In Dalton Region Georgia's Fourth Outbreak

9-9-36

BLOT ON RECORD

Atlanta, Ga.

By Wm. FOWLKES, Jr.

The lynching of 21-year-old A. L. McCamy, whose body was found hanging beneath a tree early Sunday morning after an estimated mob of 150 had seized him for the alleged touching of a white woman in the Dalton section of Georgia, marked the seventh lynching of the year for the nation and the fourth for Georgia.

The last person lynched in the nation and, incidentally, Georgia, was John Rushin. Rushin was taken by a band of some 300 persons from a deputy sheriff, who had arrested him for the alleged murder of a white man in Pavo Georgia, and shot on May 3. His body was later dragged through the surrounding section and finally left on the Colored school campus where the sheriff "found" the body.

The actual parade of lynching started early in the year when on January 10, Mace Gray was shot by a band of citizens in Carthage, Texas. for allegedly having run down white girls with his car. No arrests were made for his death.

On February 14, Willie Jones was shot in Jackson County, Oklahoma for having allegedly made a robbery attack on a white person. No arrests were made for this lynching, though widely known persons in the county are alleged to have been party to it.

Atlanta

Then on March 14 in Cusseta, Georgia, lynchings for the leading state began. Philip Baker was [illegible] and shot for allegedly having attacked white women. The band participating in the affair was not identified.

Atlanta, Ga.

The next lynching occurred on April 28 in Colbert Georgia when Lint Shaw, was tied to a tree and shot for having allegedly attempted to attack a white woman near his home. Shaw had been saved from the hands of a mob when arrested and lodged in the county jail, by the appearance of a white judge, who dared the mobbists lay hands on him by threatening to identify them.

The next day, April 29, in Lepanto, Arkansas Willie Kees was seized by a mob, taken to a lonely spot and shot to death for an alleged attempted attack on a white woman. His murderers were not apprehended for the crime.

Then four days later, on May 3 John Rushin followed by paying the lynch penalty in Pavo, Georgia marking the sixth victim.

The spurt of lynching seemingly cooled the desires of lynchers as the next lynching did not occur until Sunday September 6.

Of the seven 1936 lynch victims four were accused of attempted attacks on white women; one for the murder of a white man; one for a robbery attack of white persons; and one for running down white girls with a car.

Of the states in which lynchings occurred, Georgia leads the nation with four, two of them having occurred within a period of five days; then follow Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas with one each, giving Georgia a greater number by one than the total number for all other states of the Union.

Lynchings-1936
Cases of.

Georgia

5749

Butler, Ga., Herald
March 19, 1936

PRISONER TAKEN BY GEORGIA MOB

SHERIFF FORCED TO SURRENDER NEGRO BEING TAKEN FROM MACON TO COLUMBUS.

Chattahoochee county officers having in their custody a negro prisoner they were transferring from Macon to the Columbus jail when they stopped in Butler for a short while Friday night, encountered an organized body of men at a point a few miles west of Junction City, the men demanding and taking charge of the prisoner making way with him and later putting him to death. The negro was charged with criminal assault in Chattahoochee county on a white woman, beating another white woman and a negress the latter part of December last. Soon after the crime the negro was arrested since which time he had been in the Macon jail.

J. T. Van Horn, Chattahoochee sheriff said that he had noticed a car following his before he reached Junction City and that he speeded up in an effort to out-distance the vehicle, but was unsuccessful. He said that about two miles west of Junction City, which is about 35 miles from Columbus, a mob had gathered in the road and that he was forced to either stop or run over some of the men.

After the sheriff had stopped his car, members of the mob approached and leveling shotguns on the officers forced them to hand over their pistols, the sheriff said. They unloaded the officers' pistols and then gave them back to them, according to the sheriff.

The mob then took the keys to the sheriff's automobile and made away with the negro, driving in automobiles toward Columbus. No word was spoken by the members of the mob while they were taking the prisoner from the sheriff and his deputies Seriff Van Horn said.

After remaining at the scene for some time, the sheriff found a second key to his car and was able to drive away.

The sheriff said that it appeared to him that every member of the mob was armed with a gun. He was unable to estimate their number.

Body of Victim Found

Sheriff J. T. Van Horn, of Chattahoochee county, advised Columbus police Saturday shortly before noon that the body of Henry P. Baker, 35 year-old negro, taken from him and two deputies by a mob near Junction City late Friday night had been riddled with bullets and with a rope around his neck a mile west of Box Springs, in Chattahoochee county, near the Talbot and Muscogee county line.

Grand Jury Unable to Find Evidence

The Chattahoochee county grand jury in general presentments returned at Cusseta Tuesday morning, expressed regret over the lynching of Philip Baker, a negro who was taken from Sheriff J. T. Van Horn by a mob last Friday night, but declared that no evidence is available as to the identity of any members of the mob.

In investigating the lynching, which the grand jury termed a "deplorable affair," the body had before it the sheriff and two deputies who accompaied him to Macon to remove the negro to Columbus pending his trial in Chattahoochee county superior court.

"We have been unable to obtain from any of these officers the identity of any member of the mob, as evidence obtained from these officers was to the effect that all members thereof were masked and no word was spoken by any member throughout the transaction," the presentments declared.

The grand jury stated that they "could not prefer charges against anyone in the absence of evidence as to identity."

Talbotton, Ga., New Era
March 19, 1936

BODY OF LYNCHED NEGRO FOUND BY CHATTAHOOCHEE SHERIFF ON SWAMP EDGE

Sheriff J. T. Van Horn, of Chattahoochee county advised police in Columbus Saturday shortly before noon that the body ow Henry Phillip Baker, 35 year old negro, taken from him and two deputies by a mob near Junction City Friday night had been found riddled with bullets and with a rope around his neck a mile west of Box Springs, in Chattahoochee county, near the Talbot and Muscogee county line.

The body was found by fishermen lying at the edge of a lake swamp and near a large tree where he had apparently been swung up with the rope and shot. There were a number of bullet and shot gun wounds in the head and neck. The body was carried to Cusseta on orders of the sheriff. He was charged with criminally assaulting two white women and a negress of Chattahoochee county, December 30th last year.

Sheriff Van Horn and deputies were en route to Columbus with the negro from Macon where he had been held for safe keeping in the Bibb county jail since the day after the alleged criminal assaults near Eelbeck's in Chattahoochee county. He was to have been placed in the Muscogee county jail to be held pending the opening of court at Cusseta Monday morning by Judge C. F. Mclaughlin for the regular spring term of Chattahoochee Superior court. It was expected his case would be investigated there by the grand jury Monday morning.

Baker, who had lived in Columbus, was released from the Marion county chaingang at Buena Vista the morning of December 30, and the same day walking back toward Columbus he is said ta have obtained some liquor and after attempting to attack a white woman, who was accompanied at her home by a negro woman, was frightened away when the negress attempted to shoot him. He took the gun and carried it down the road for a short distance after unloading it.

A short distance from the scene of his first alleged attempted attack he accosted another white woman who was working in her yard with her baby in her arms. He is said to have taken the baby and pitched it on the ground, attacking the woman.

A posse soon formed and an all-day and all-night chase with dogs followed, the negro being captured that night by Muscogee county officers. Without delay he was spirited away to Macon for safe keeping.

Taken From Car

The men in the automobile with the sheriff and the negro were M. R. Hollis and Hugh Allen, who had been deputized b the sheriff to accompany him to Macon to carry the negro to Columbus The sheriff stated early Saturday that he had tried to keep his movements a secret, and that as far as he knew no one knew of his plans to go to Macon excepting himself and the deputies.

The Chattahoochee county officers left Macon about 8:15 o'clock Friday night with their prisoner. He was taken from them about two hours later by a mob estimated by the sheriff as numbering 30 to 40.

The sheriff said that he had noticed a car following his before re reached Junction City and that he speeded up in an effort to out-distance the vehicle.. but was unsuccessful. He said that about two miles west of Junction City, a mob had gathered in the road and that he was forced to either stop or run over some of the men.

Held up By Mob

After the sheriff had stopped his car, members of the mob approached and levelling shotguns on the officers forced them to hand over their pistols, the sheriff said. They unloaded the officers pistols and then gave them back to them, according to the sheriff.

The mob then took the keys to the sheriff's car and made away with the negro, driving in automobiles toward Columbus. No words were spoken by members of the mob while they were taking the prisoner from the sheriff and his deputies, Sheriff Van Horn said.

After remaining at the scene for some time, the sheriff found a second key to his car and was able to drive away.

Records show that Baker was arrested December, 17th 1934, in Columbus, on charges of shooting at another and having a pistol without a license. Negroes were involved in the case.

—Columbus Ledger.

Georgia Negro, Held For Attack On Girls, Is Lynched In Third Attempt

ROYSTON, GA., April 28—(AP)—A giant negro, three times the object of thwarted mob action, was lynched today at the point where he was accused of attempting to criminally assault two young white girls.

Lint Shaw, 45, the sullen, 225-pound prisoner once saved from mob vengeance by the dramatic plea of a 74-year-old Superior Court judge, was hustled out of the one-story jail here shortly after midnight by a band of 40 men a few hours before his scheduled trail.

His bullet torn body, tied by a cotton plow line to the branch of a pine tree, was found at daybreak in a creek bottom near Colbert, Ga. A quickly assembled coroner's jury returned a finding he died of gunshot wounds inflicted by "persons unknown."

Terrified members of the negro's family refused to claim the body, leaving burial to the county at its expense.

Night Chief of Police W. A. Dickerson, overpowered by the mob, which smashed its way into the negro's cell, said members of the group were strangers to him. Sheriff T. L. Henley came here from Danielsville to investigate.

The lynching climaxed a series of demonstrations against Shaw who had been in three different jails since the girls identified him as the man who attempted to attack them when their automobile broke down April 10.

The negro fled after drawing a knife and throwing one of the girls into a ditch.

An inflamed crowd started assembling following Shaw's arrest several days ago at Colbert and as he was being carried to Danielsville he stabbed two escorting officers. Pistol bullet wounds received in that encounter had not healed when he was seized today.

Superior Court Judge Berry T. Moseley left a sick bed to thwart a mob of 100 at Danielsville until a detail of National Guardsmen arrived from Gainesville where they were patroling the Tornado stricken city.

Warning his hearers to "stop violating the law by breaking into the jail" as members of the mob tore brick away from a window, Judge Moseley had Sheriff Henley deputize many in the crowd. Order was restored.

The militiamen carried Shaw to Atlanta for safekeeping and hospital treatment. He was returned to Danielsville last night for trial, but a threatening crowd congregated and he was brought to Royston.

News of the transfer leaked out and the mob quickly reformed.

NEGRO IS LYNCHED BY GEORGIA MOB

Prisoner Taken From Royston Jail Few Hours Before Time of Trial.

ROYSTON, Ga., April 28.—(AP)—A giant negro, three times the object of thwarted mob action, was lynched today at the point where he was accused of attempting to criminally assault two young white girls.

Lint Shaw, the sullen 225-pound prisoner once saved from mob vengeance by the dramatic plea of a 74-year-old superior court judge, was hustled out of the one-story jail here shortly after midnight by a band of 40 men a few hours before his scheduled trial.

His bullet-torn body, tied by a cotton plow line to a pine tree, was found at daybreak in a creek bottom near his home at Colbert, Ga. A quickly assembled coroner's jury returned a finding the 45-year-old Shaw died of gunshot wounds inflicted by "persons unknown."

The negro had been identified by the girls as the man who attempted to attack them when their automobile broke down April 10.

Superior Court Judge Berry T. Moseley left a sick bed to thwart a mob of 100 at Danielsville until a detail of national guardsmen arrived from Gainesville where they were patrolling the tornado-stricken city.

Warning his hearers to "stop violating the law by breaking into the jail" as members of the mob tore brick away from a window, Judge Moseley had Sheriff Henley deputize many in the crowd. Order was restored.

The militiamen carried Shaw to Atlanta for safekeeping and hospital treatment. He was returned to Danielsville last night for trial, but a threatening crowd congregated and he was brought to Royston.

News of the transfer leaked out and the mob quickly re-formed here and rushed the jail.

Elberton, Ga., Star
April 28, 1936

MADISON COUNTY NEGRO LYNCHED THIS MORNING

BODY RIDDLED BY BULLETS AT SCENE OF CRIME

Lint Shaw Pays Penalty of Crime at Hands of Determined and Well Organized Mob.

An orderly, well armed, competently led crowd of determined men last night about 1 o'clock took Lint Shaw, Madison county negro indicted for assault and intent to rape a white girl near Colbert on the evening of April 17, from the lock-up at Royston, carried him back to the scene of the alleged crime, hanged him to a tree and riddled his body with bullets fired at close range.

The negro, 50 years old, was badly wounded at the time of his arrest shortly after the crime was committed. When lodged in Madison county jail at Danielsville a mob stormed the jail, and the negro was saved by a heroic effort of Judge Berry T. Moseley, who got out of a sick bed to appease the anger of the mob. Shaw had cut and seriously wounded two officers as he was being brought to jail.

Among other things, Judge Moseley told the crowd that was drilling holes into the walls of the jail in their effort to get Shaw that he would call a special term of court to try the negro.

This special term of court convened yesterday morning. Shaw was indicted by the grand jury for assault and attempt to rape. He was also indicted on two counts for assault and intent to murder the officers.

Shaw, who had been carried to Fulton county tower for safe keeping, was brought back to Danielsville Monday afternoon to consult with attorneys appointed to defend him, and to be ready for trial today.

Last night rumors of mob action caused the sheriff of Madison county to become suspicious, and as a precautionary move carried the prisoner to Royston for safe keeping.

Leaders of the mob, learning Shaw's whereabouts, quietly went to Royston late in the night and demanded from the policemen access to the town prison. On being refused, they cut the locks to the prison and took Shaw back to the scene of the crime and tied him to a tree and riddled his body with bullets.

The scene of the killing is near the line of Madison and Oglethorpe counties, and about 23 miles distant from Royston. It is estimated that only about 200 persons were in the crowd that took the prisoner from the Royston lock-up. They were quiet and orderly, and carried the victim of their wrath right through the sleeping town of Danielsville to the scene of the crime.

Judge Thomas Murray and Hon. C. E. Adams, both Danielsville attorneys' had been appointed by Judge Moseley to defend Shaw on the assault and intent to rape charge, and Howard Gordon, prominent in Legionaire work, had been named to defend him on charges of assault with intent to murder the officers.

Mr. Paul Crawford, driver of Benson's bread wagon, en route to Elberton from Athens, passed through Colbert this morning at 7 o'clock. He was told of the lynching and drove by to verify with his own eyes what he had heard, and saw the bullet-ridden body of the dead negro tied to the tree where he died at 1 o'clock. No one was near the scene, and everything was quiet. Mr. Crawford stated that the sheriff will summon a jury and an inquest will be held today.

13-14

EAST ST. LOUIS, ILL.
JOURNAL

MAY 1 - 1936

In Talmadge Land.

Lint Shaw, Georgia Negro accused of molesting two white girls, was saved from a mob only two weeks ago when a 74 years old judge left a sick bed to scold the mobsters and command them to return the prisoner to jail there to await the orderly processes of law. The mob dispersed when militiamen arrived on the scene and the terrified Negro was locked in a cell.

Georgia authorities were praised for preventing another lynching. Alabama has adopted stern measures to halt summary mob executions and there was hope that Georgia was following suit. Editorial writers hailed the Georgia judge and suggested that the South was at last determined to stamp out lynchings, a national disgrace.

But Tuesday night a second mob took Lint Shaw from his prison cell and hanged him to a convenient tree. The lynchers riddled their victim's body with bullets and disappeared into the night. All congratulations, it seems, were wasted.

In Southern states noted for lynchings authorities usually make some attempt, even if half-hearted, to prevent a lynching. But once the mob has had its way, the book is closed. Law authorities in Southern states are reluctant to seek out the lynchers and punish them. Only when mobsters are brought to justice can it be said that law authorities really are anxious to abolish a practise that cancels much of the charm and sentiment associated with Dixie.

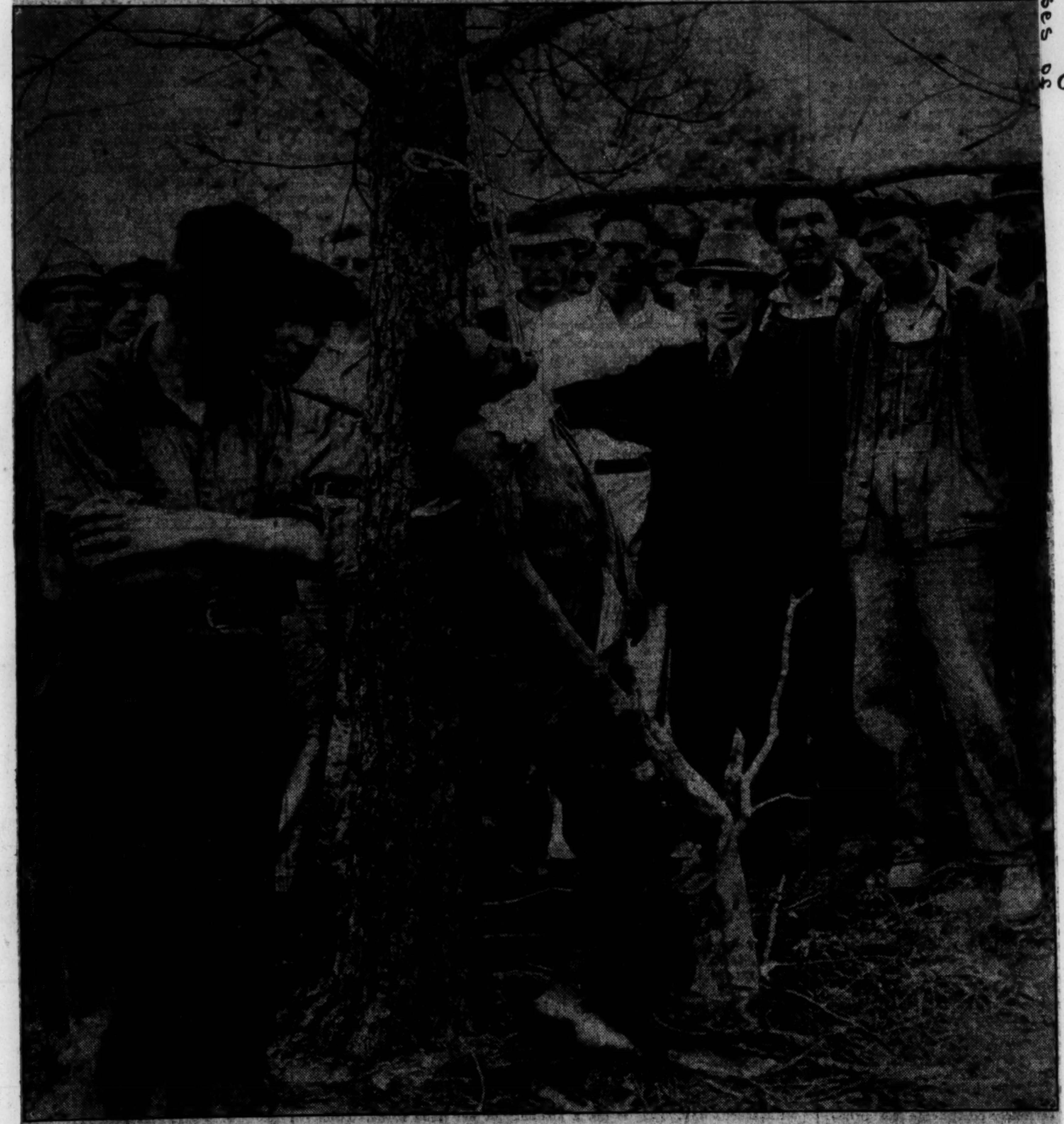
Hahira, Ga., Gold Leaf
May 1, 1936

NEGRO IS LYNCHED—

Lint Shaw, a negro farmer, once saved from a lynching through the pleas of an aged judge, was shot to death by a mob of 40 men Tuesday near Royston. The mob broke into the Royston jail at midnight and took the negro who was charged with attempted criminal assault on two white girls.

Lynchings-1936
Cases of

These Can Be Identified



They stand by serene and unashamed—their job well-done. While three major church organizations convened in various sections of the country to effect in organized evangelism the Christ ideal of the brotherhood of man, this gruesome spectacle of Lint Shaw, who was lynched last week in Royston, Ga., should inspire spirited resolutions to law-enforcing agencies, not only to apprehend every mobster, but to enact legislation to remove forever this shameful menace to Christian American civilization. The above men, whose identity cannot be questioned, must surely possess information which would lead honest officials to arrest and convict the murderers responsible for this human outrage. Leaders of the A.M.E., A.M.E. Zion and the M.E. churches, as well as President Roosevelt and Congressman, please take notice. Reports state that the American flag floated sadly in the breeze in the treetop as the stench from the burning flesh charged the air for miles and miles around the countryside.

—International News Photo.

Defender 5-9-36
Chicago

Georgia

5260

Carnesville, Ga., Herald
May 1, 1936

Negro Lynched In Madison Co. For Attack Crime

Lint Shaw, Madison county negro about 50 years of age, was tied to a tree and his body riddled with bullets near Colbert Monday night, as a result of his attack upon a white girl of that community on the night of April 10th.

The negro was placed under arrest for the crime shortly after same took place and, enroute to the Danielsville jail, attacked the two peac officers who had him in charge, inflicting painful knife wounds and, himself, being injured in turn.

When lodged in the Madison county jail a mob stormed the building the negro being saved at the time only by the persuasion for law and order on the part of Judge Berry T. Mosely and the timely arrival of several state millitiamen. He was carried then to the Fulton county tower for safe-keeping until Monday when he was returned to Madison for indictment and trial.

In the evening of Monday rumors of mob action again caused Sheriff T. L. Henley to use precaution, the negro being spirited away from Danielsville in a circuitous route and finally being lodged in the Royston city lock-up, where, at around midnight, a very orderly though determined crowd came demanding the prisoner. After refusal to turn him over on the part of W. A. Dickerson, night policeman, the crowd proceeded to tear the lock from the cell door, took him quietly and sped into Madison, near the scene of the crime, where he was tied to a tree and his body riddled.

A special term of court had been called to dispose of the case, Judge Thomas Murray and Hon. C. E. Adams of Danielsville having been appointed by Judge Moseley to defend Shaw on the assualt and intent to rape charge, while Howard Gordon had also been named to defend him upon other charges of assaulting the officers.

While news dispatches regarding the matter have gone out under Royston headlines, the truth of the matter is that, so far as we know, no Royston-on other than the two policemen knew anything about Shaw having been brought here, nor did but very few, if any other citizens, know about his having been taken from the local lock-up until the following morning.

Pearson, Ga., Tribune
April 30, 1936

NEGRO LYNCHED NEAR COLBERT

DANIELSVILLE, Ga., April 28. A few hours before he was to have gone on trial here for assault with intent to murder, the bullet-riddled body of Lint Shaw, 50, a negro, was found tied to a tree near Colbert, Ga., early today.

Shaw was indicted by a Madison county grand jury Monday on a charge of attacking a white girl near Colbert and then stabbing two officers who arrested him.

Sheriff T. L. Henley of Madison county, brought the negro to jail here Monday night from Fulton Tower, where he had been lodged for safekeeping. Shortly after the prisoner had been lodged in jail here a mob appeared, and Sheriff Henley decided to transfer him to the jail at Royston.

There, a few minutes after midnight, night Policeman W. A. Dickerson reported a group of about 50 men appeared at the jail demanding the negro.

"I told them I didn't have the keys" he said.

"Then they searched me, and when they found I was telling the truth, broke down the jail door and took the prisoner."

The negro was transferred to Fulton Tower in Atlanta April 11, the day after his arrest. The transfer was made after a company of national guardsmen had been called out to disperse a mob which congregated at the county jail.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel
May 4, 1936

LYNCH NEGRO IN GEORGIA

Killer Shot to Death

Pavo, Ga. (UP).—Judge W. E. Thomas of Thomas superior court, today pressed an investigation into the mob lynching last night of John Rushin, 55-year-old Negro accused of fatally stabbing one white man and seriously wounding another.

The Negro's bullet-riddled body was found near a creek, about 300 yards from a main highway, near the scene of the stabbing earlier yesterday of Marion Pate, 35, who died, and Will Geary, who was in serious condition.

Rushin was taken from Deputy Sheriff Herber Kennedy, as he started to take the Negro to Thomasville, seat of Thomas county, in Agrarian South Georgia. A mob of 200 armed men made the seizure, Kennedy said. Kennedy said he attempted to disregard the mob's order to surrender the Negro.

The Negro was taken to a nearby creek and shot to death. Five or six bullets struck his body, it was reported. According to Kennedy, Rush confessed to the mob that he had killed Pate and wounded Geary.

A jury impanelled by Coroner C. T. Cooper, immediately after the body was found, decided the Negro came to his death by "bullets fired by persons unknown."

Informed of the lynching, Superior Judge Thomas, of Thomasville, said last night he would investigate today to "get something done about it." The coroner's jury, however, was unable to learn the identity of any of the members of the mob.

Pate was killed and Geary was seriously wounded yesterday when they got into an argument with Rushin while the three were riding on a truck. Rushin allegedly drew a butcher knife and stabbed Pate and Geary, fatally wounding the former. Rushin fled.

NEGRO IS LYNCHED FOR ENTERING HOME

Youthful Prowler Is Shot And Hanged In Georgia

By United Press.

DALTON, Ga., Sept. 7.—The South today recorded King Lynch with another victim—A. L. McCamy, 21, Negro and former convict who was arrested for breaking into a white woman's home.

A mob of 200 men early yesterday forced the jailer to surrender the key to the Negro's cell. After being dragged into the street, The Negro broke loose but fell in a barrage of gunfire. The mob then took McCamy to the edge of town and hanged his body to a telephone pole.

The Negro Friday night had entered the home of Mrs. Eva McCamy, a widow. Screams of the woman attracted neighbors who captured the Negro.

The Negro recently had completed a one-year sentence on a Georgia chain gang for an attempted assault on a white girl.

MOB LYNCHES YOUNG NEGRO NEAR DALTON

Crowd of 150 Men Storm Jail and Get Keys From Jailer at Points of Pistols

Macon Telegraph

VICTIM HELD IN ASSAULT

Macon, Ga.

Body Is Found by Roadside Beneath Tree From Which He Had Been Hanged

9/7/36.

DALTON, Ga., Sept. 6 (AP)—A mob lynched a 21-year-old Negro accused of an attempted attack on a white woman near here early today after hustling the prisoner away from the Whitfield county jail in this north Georgia community.

Sheriff J. T. Bryan said the crowd of about 150 men stormed the jail at 1:30 a. m., forced Jailer John Pitt to hand over his keys at the point of pistols, and seized the prisoner, booked as A. L. McCamy.

The sheriff found the body on a roadside four hours later beneath a tree from which the Negro had been hanged. Bryan said the Negro recently completed a chaingang sentence for an attempted attack on a 10-year-old girl.

Woman Screams for Help

The prisoner was arrested Friday night when he was trailed by bloodhounds from a residence here.

"The woman screamed when the Negro touched her and he broke and ran from the house," Bryan said. "Two men who met him as he ran down the street recognized him. We got the bloodhounds and caught him in a short time.

"I planned to question him today but they got him first," the sheriff said, adding the Negro had made no statement concerning the reported attack attempt.

A coroner's inquest was called for late today.

Negro Is Lynched By Georgia Mob

Advertiser

DALTON, GA., Sept. 6.—(AP)—A mob lynched a 21-year-old negro accused of an attempted attack on a white woman near here today after hustling the prisoner away from the Whitfield County jail in this north Georgia community.

Sheriff J. T. Bryan said the crowd of about 150 men stormed the jail at 1:30 a.m., forced Jailer John Pitt to hand over his keys at the point of pistols and seized the prisoner booked as A. L. McCamy.

Montgomery, Ala.

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9/7/36

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NEGRO IS LYNCHED IN DALTON SECTION

Youth, 21, Held for Attempted Attack on White Woman.

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Constitution

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Atlanta, Ga.

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9/7/36

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DALTON MOB HANGS VICTIM; LYNCHER HURT

Claim Talmadge Enemies Engineered Disgrace To Embarrass Him

GRAND JURY PROBE

Chicago Defender
9-12-36

By ABRAHAM FISHENBAUM

(Editor's Note:—Mr. Fishenbaum, retained by the Chicago Defender to report the sordid public hanging of Rainey Bethea at Owensboro, Ky., several weeks ago and also to get first hand information on mob action prevailing in the South, wired the following story from Dalton, Ga., where a Race man was taken from the county jail and lynched. Mr. Fishenbaum, a white man and a graduate of a well-known Alabama university, was sent from Louisville, Ky., by the Defender to Dalton, Ga., where his gifted pen summed up aspects of the murder of A. L. McAmy which few other correspondents were able to obtain.)

ATLANTA, Ga., Sept 11.—While Gov. Eugene Talmadge, Democrat, fighting his own election as United States senator, and to elect a governor of his own choice to succeed him, seeks to focus the glare of the national spotlight on him, Dalton citizens take the stage with a brutal lynching, imperfect only because one of the lynchers suffered a severe injury when he was kicked by the hapless victim just two minutes removed from death.

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It is being charged in some circles that enemies of the governor engineered the lynching to embarrass the chief executive in the campaign.

In view of this fact, from state house comes the report that the governor will immediately order a sweeping investigation into the lynching, and that swift action of the grand jury seem certain. There is a likelihood that both the sheriff and the jailer will be suspended during the investigation unless their reports are entirely satisfactory.

Already secret investigations are being made, it was learned from authoritative sources with drastic action ready to follow.

Victim Is Fighter

DALTON, Ga., Sept. 11.—(Special)—Georgia's aristocrats of the rope and faggot know how what it's all about—not the law, but how to raid a jail when the sheriff isn't looking, drag a black man out and strng hm up to a tree. But this mob suffered the unforseen consequence. This black man was a fighter.

They returned to action near here Sunday, after a layoff of several weeks, and stormed the Whitfield county jail to murder A. L. McAmy, 21 year old unfortunate given the "finger" as possible attacker of a white woman.

The church folk were shouting and praying to Georgia's God in the temples of religion on ths Sabbath morn—shouting as they have taught their black brothers to do—for mercy on a sin-ridden world, for equanamity among the races. "Lawd, forgive us for our trespasses!" they prayed.

Man Dies Fighting

"Forgiven" they went out to trespass some more. But this trespassing wasn't so easy. In the case of hundreds and hundreds of poor helpless black folk, scared nearly stiff by the baying of bloodhonds, the flare of coal-oil torches, the hoarse shouts of rawboned, tobacco chewing, overall hitching hill-billies, "hunting foxes," the lynch program was usually cut and dried.

His hands were bound, but McCamy didn't let that deter his determination to knoc'- at least one spoke out of the lynch wheel. He did it with his feet and an unarmed lyncher, rolling on the ground in front of the jail, holding his groin as he yelped loud and pitiful, wasn't exactly a sight to inspire the tow-headed, freckled faced boys and girls who swarmed to a spot on the roadside beneath a tree where the "nigger" lay.

Sheriff Estimates Crowd

Southern sheriffs are great at "estimating crowds" who "storm the jail." Sheriff J. T. Bryan of Whitfield county is of the same breed. His estimate, as he sat with hobnailed boots stretched across the battered deck in his office and talked to newspaper men between ejected streams of Brown's Mule into the cuspidor on the far side of the room was that about "150 men" were in the mob which took McCamy away.

Jailer John Pitts in his report to nis superior officers said the 150 men put a pistol on him and forced him to turn over his keys. Bloodhounds were used in trailing McAmy Friday when he was captured. All the voters were "downtown" arguing about the chances of Governor Talmadge for reelection when the boy was locked up. Otherwise they would have raided the jail right then.

It wasn't until Saturday evening that news of the arrest had spread sufficiently around the town to stir up a carnol interest.

"I planned to question him today, but they got him first," the sheriff said. McAmy had made no statement at all about the alleged rape attack, but his courageous fight to the last symbolizes his vigorous protest and gives strong indication that he was just another innocent victim of Gawja (Georgia) justice.

GEORGIA NEGRO LYNCHED BY MOB

"Attempted Attack" Of White Woman Causes Hanging In Ga.

New York Age
9-12-36

DALTON, Ga.—A mob of about 150 men lynched a 21-year-old Negro youth who had been accused of an "attempted attack on a white woman" near here early Sunday after spiriting the prisoner away from the Whitfield County jail.

Sheriff J. T. Bryan said that the crowd stormed the jail at 1.30 a. m., forced the jailer, John Pitt, to hand over his keys at the point of pistols and seized the prisoner whose name was A. L. McCany.

The body of the youth was found four hours later on a roadside beneath a tree from which the Negro had been hanged.

The prisoner was arrested Friday night when he was trailed by bloodhounds from a residence here. He was at that time accused of "attempting to attack" a white woman who was standing on the front steps of her home. The crime for which the youth was lynched according to the Sheriff, took place in the following manner:

"The woman screamed when the Negro touched her and he broke and ran from the house. Two men who met him as he ran down the street recognized him." Bloodhounds were put on his trail and he was arrested.

Reports Show Man Lynched At Dalton, Georgia Was Innocent

Daily World
10-[illegible]-36
Atlanta Ga.

NEW YORK—(S N S)—Communications to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People here indicate that A. L. McCamy lynched at Dalton, Georgia, September 6, was certainly not guilty of "attempted assault" and might have been a man innocent of any crime whatsoever.

The white woman whi is supposed to have been attacked denied that the man in her home molested her. She has denied also that sh. could identify the person. She simp!y woke up at hearing a noise and saw a man standing in her bedroom. She screamed and he fled. There is no evidence that the intruder was there for the purpose of harming anyone or committing assault. He could have been a burglar.

A check upon the movements of McCamy on that night shows that at the time the woman claims she saw a man in her room McCamy was home in bed. He left the north end of Dalton before ten o'clock and went to a cafe in South Dalton in a taxi cab with another man. From there he walked home and is said to have been there continuously until two o'clock when officers came and arrested him.

The family attempted to get a hearing for him on Friday but the authorities put it off until Saturday. On Saturday they put it off until Monday and on Sunday he was lynched.

The dead man's relatives are said to have been warned by deputy sheriffs that they would "get the same thing" if they did not get off the streets. The statements appearing in the paper that the police oficers did not know where the body was until four hours after the crime is also said to be false as the dead man's relatives telephoned the jail soon after the crime and were told at once where the body was.

The fact that a hearing was postponed for two days and that the sheriff and other officers were home "asleep" when the lynching took place on Sunday points strongly to a knowledge that a lynching was to take place on the part of all concerned.

Lynched Man Was In Bed At Time Of Crime

Journal and Guide

NAACP Investigation Sheds New Light On Dalton Case

10-10-36

Journal and Guide Bureau

NEW YORK CITY—Twenty-four year old A. L. McCamey paid with his life to a Georgia mob for a crime he had not committed, according to communications reaching the NAACP national office here this week.

Norfolk Va.

McCamey was snatched from the Dalton, Ga., jail on the night of Sept. 6 by a mob of 150 Georgia hillsmen and strung to a tree four miles away.

The youth was charged with "attempted rape" a charge, it now develops, was not substantiated by any evidence whatsoever.

COULDN'T IDENTIFY MAN

The white woman who is supposed to have been attacked has denied that the man in her home molested her. She has denied also that she could identify the person. She simply woke up at hearing a noise and saw a man standing in her bedroom. She screamed and he fled. There is no evidence that the intruder was there for the purpose of harming anyone or committing rape. He could have been a burglar.

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RELATIVES WARNED

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REPORTS INDICATE INNOCENT MAN LYNCHED

New York, Oct. 2.- Communications to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People here indicate that A. L. McCamy lynched at Dalton, Ga. September 6 was certainly not guilty of "attempted rape" and might have been a man innocent of any crime whatsoever.

Press Service of the N.A.A.C.P.
10-2-36 New York N.Y.

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EDITORIALS OF THE WEEK

(From the Little Rock, Ark. Democrat, Sept. 9, 1936)

A Typical Lynching Story

Press Service of the N.A.A.C.P. 10-2-36

Here's a dispatch from Dalton, Ga., telling of the lynching of a young Negro accused of an attempted attack on a white woman, a typical chapter in the history of mobs in the South:

"A mob lynched a 21-year-old Negro accused of an attempted attack on a white woman near here early today after hustling the prisoner away from the Whitfield county jail in the North Georgia community. New York, N.Y.

"Sheriff J. T. Bryan said the crowd of about 150 men stormed the jail at 1:30 A.M., forced Jailer John Pitt to hand over the keys at the point of pistols and seized the prisoner......

"The sheriff found the body on a roadside four hours later beneath a tree from which the Negro had been hanged......

"'The woman screamed when the Negro touched her and he broke and ran from the house,' Bryan said. 'Two men who met him as he ran down the street recognized him. We got the bloodhounds and caught him in a short time.'"

"'I planned to question him today but they got him first,' the sheriff said, adding that the Negro had made no statement concerning the reported attack attempt."

It is to such incidents that Virginius Dabney referred in his article in last Sunday's Democrat in which he declared the South is leading the nation in denying rights of fair trial to its citizens. "The most flagrant of all the South's infringements of civil rights," he said, "continues undiminished from year to year. Apparently there will be no appreciable change until more drastic action is taken to stamp out the evil."

And that drastic action is certain to come in the form of federal legislation. While there are sound objections to such a law, it appears inevitable that such "Southerners" as the Dalton rabble will force it upon us.

2-Week-Old Lynching In Atlanta Comes To Light

Brutal Slaying Of Hospital Orderly Is Laid To Police

By Special Correspondent

ATLANTA, Ga., Sept. 25—The city of Atlanta was host last Saturday morning at 3 o'clock to one of the famous Georgia lynching mobs, which committed one of the most gruesome and fiendish crimes in Georgia's history. It was the horrified lynch murder of Thomas Finch, 27-year-old hospital orderly of 427 Ripley street.

Finch, a popular young man about town and a youth with a splendid record at Grady hospital, where he had been employed for the past 10 years, was awakened during the early morning hours of Saturday, Sept. 12, when he heard the motors of several cars circling his home.

His whole family was awakened when five big robust men allegedly officers of the law, rapped at his door. His father who answered the door was told, "We want your son, Tom."

Finch immediately made his way to the door and presented himself, inquiring what charge he was booked on. He was told that he was under arrest for investigation and to get on his old working clothes. He was then pushed into one of seven cars and whisked away.

Twenty minutes later his wife called the city jail and was told that Finch had not been arrested and no charge was preferred against him there. She then called the county jail and was told he was not there.

Family Becomes Alarmed

At this point the entire family had gathered around her fearing mob violence. Grady hospital was called and Mrs. Finch almost collapsed when told that Tom Finch's body had been dumped out there about 4 a.m. riddled with bullets, bearing heavy scars and with one of his eyes completely mashed in. It was estimated that nearly seven shots had entered the man's body. He was not dead. When placed on the operating table he gasped, "O Lord, O Lord," then lapsed into a coma from which he never revived. His body was taken to the Hanley Brothers undertaking establishment.

Attack Given as Motive

Officers of the Atlanta police department who are credited with making the arrest of Finch stated, when interviewed that Finch had resisted arrest and had made an attempt to harm an officer, and was shot while fleeing.

Loopholes were ripped through this assertion, when it was discovered that the man had been shot five times in the chest, two of the bullets lodging in his neck. Two holes were found in his left side where powder burns testified that he had been shot at close range.

The death of Finch marks the fourth lynching in Georgia and the first in Atlanta for several years.

Lynchings - 1936
Cases of.

Georgia.

5263

NEGRO IS LYNCHED IN CUSSETA AREA

Prisoner, Accused of Attack on Women, Taken From Sheriff.

CUSSETA, Ga., March 14.—(AP)—A middle-aged negro accused of criminally attacking two white women was lynched near here early today by a mob which seized him from Chattahoochee county officers. The body of the victim, Philip Baker, was found on the bank of a lake several hours after he was taken from Sheriff J. T. Van Horn and two deputies by the armed and masked band. A rope was around his neck and bullet marks were in the body.

A fishing party came upon the body.

Sheriff Van Horn said the mob, numbering between 30 and 40, seized the 35-year-old negro as he was being transferred late last night from Macon to Columbus.

Baker was arrested last December on a charge of attacking two white women and beating a negro woman a day after he completed a 12-month chain gang sentence for carrying a pistol.

NEW YORK SUN

MAR 14 1936

MOB LYNCHES NEGRO

Overpowers Deputy Sheriffs Who Had Him.

BOX SPRINGS, Ga., March 14 (U. P.).—Philip Baker, Negro prisoner who was snatched last night by an armed mob from Deputy Sheriffs who were removing him from Macon to Columbus, Ga., for safekeeping, was found dead near here today. He had been shot through the head.

Baker, who was charged with attacking a white woman and beating a Negro woman, was being taken to Columbus to await his trial next week at Cusseta, when he was seized by the mob.

Deputy Sheriff J. T. Van Horn reported that the mob disarmed him and two other deputies near Columbus and drove off in automobiles with the Negro.

A posse found the body today.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.
EAGLE

MAR 15 1936

Negro Is Lynched
By Mob in Georgia

Cusseta, Ga., March 14 (AP)—A rope drawn tightly about his neck and several gunshot wounds in his head and neck, the body of Philip Bakef, 32-year-old Negro, taken from officers by a mob last night, was found in a swamp near here today, victim of a lynching.

The Negro was accused of attacking two white women and a Negro woman near here last December.

Mob Riddles Man's Body With Bullets

3-21-36

ATLANTA, Ga., March 20 (Special)—Incensed over the lynching Friday night of 33-year-old Phillip Baker at Boxsprings, Ga., members of the interracial commission here this week demanded immediate federal action to curb mob violence in the South.

The announcement by the commission came as a bombshell to Dixie whites, who believe by lynching innocent members of the Race that they are upholding white womanhood. The views of the commission, which is composed of members of both races, were included in a pamphlet containing a study of lynchings in this state in the last five years.

"We are tired of standing idly by having the name of our state dragged into the dust by unfavorable publicity occasioned by vandalism, overt acts, and discriminatory practices," said one leader.

The commission plans this week to call upon Governor Eugene Talmadge, presidential candidate from this state and ask his aid in curbing mob violence.

They point out that if he desires to receive the support of members of all races, he must show some evidence of fairness to all, and set the minds of his constituency at rest to his political program.

BOXSPRINGS, Ga., March 20.—(Special)—Georgia, that grand old state, famous because of its chain gangs, peonage farms, sanitarium for infantile paralysis, and red hills further emphasized its backwardness last week through the lynching of Philip Baker.

Sheriff J. T. Van Horn of Chattahoochee county, accompanied by two of his deputies, it is charged, virtually surrendered to the Georgia lynchers Friday night their victim, a thirty-three year old Race man, who was arrested on the trumped-up charge of assaulting two white women.

The mob, which was made up of some of the "prominent" white leaders, among them being politicians, school teachers, several ministers, and a score of women and children, experienced no difficulty in seizing Baker, who was being transported from Macon to Columbus for trial.

Turned Over To Mob

The word had been given that Baker, detained in jail in Macon since December 31, would be passing through Boxspring at nine o'clock. The mob was on hand and just as the car bearing the sheriff, his aides and the prisoner came down the highway it was suddenly stopped and Baker removed.

Handcuffed, Baker was jerked out of the car, beaten over the head with sticks and the butts of the pistols held in the hands of the various members of the mob. Unconscious, the prisoner was then dragged over to a tree where a rope was drawn tightly about his neck.

For more than an hour bullets were fired into the man's body as it hung from the tree. Even parents gave guns to their children and let them shoot at Baker. Satisfied that they had done a good job in the upholding of white womanhood, the mob left for home stopping on the roadside to enjoy a big barbecue feast.

Body Bullet Riddled

The bullet riddled body of Baker was found early the next morning hanging from a tree in the swamps. The sheriff said he could not recognized any of the members of the mob.

Cracker State Mob Gets 5th Lynch Victim

3-21-36

BOX SPRINGS, Ga.—The bullet-riddled body of Philip Baker, 33, the fifth lynching victim of the year, was found in a swamp near here, Saturday.

Baker, accused of assaulting one white woman, and of beating another white woman, and a colored girl, was taken from Sheriff J. T. Van Horn and two deputies by an armed and masked mob of approximately forty men.

The suspect was arrested on December 31, and was taken to Macon, Ga., for safekeeping. On Friday, the sheriff decided to return the prisoner to Columbus for trial. Shortly after leaving Macon, the sheriff said that he and his deputies were stopped by armed men after a two-mile chase.

Rope Around Neck

He was forced to give up his prisoner at the point of pistols, he said. The mob fled with Baker, after taking the keys of the sheriff's auto.

A rope had been tightly drawn around Baker's neck. Physicians were uncertain whether the man had come to his death from hanging or from the effects of the bullet wounds. The sheriff said that he didn't recognize any of the lynchers.

Mob Lynches Negro Attacker

Advertiser
3-15-36

CUSSETA, GA., March 14.—(AP)—A middle-aged negro accused of criminally attacking two white women was lynched near here early today by a mob which seized him from Chattahoochee County officers.

A rope about his neck, the bullet-punctured body of the victim, Philip Baker, was found on the bank of a swampland lake several hours after he was taken from Sheriff J. T. Van Horn and two deputies by the armed and masked band.

A fishing party came upon the body, bearing bullet and gunshot wounds in the head and neck, on the ground near a tree where he apparently had been hanged and shot.

Sheriff Van Horn said the mob, numbering between 30 and 40, seized the 35-year-old negro as he was being transferred late last night from Macon to Columbus.

The band disappeared with the negro, Van Horn said, after taking the officers ammunition and the keys to their car.

Baker was arrested last December on a charge of attacking two white women and beating a negro woman a day after he completed a 12-month chaingang sentence for carrying a pistol.

Cordele, Ga. Dispatch
March 15, 1936

BODY OF LYNCHED NEGRO IS FOUND IN GEORGIA SWAMP

Forty Armed Masked Men Take Victim from Cusseta Officers

CUSSETA, Ga., March 14 —(AP)—A rope drawn tightly about his neck, and several gunshot wounds in his head and neck, the body of Phillip Baker, negro taken from officers by a mob last night was found in a swamp near here today—victim of a lynching.

The body of the negro, accused of attacking two white women and a negro woman near here last December, was found in a swamp lying near the bank of a lake.

B. T. Stockdaile, operator of a gasoline filling station, possessor of the only telephone in Cusseta and a member of a searching party which found the body, said a party of Columbus citizens enroute to the lake for fishing came upon the body and notified Sheriff J. T. Vanhorn.

Sheriff Vanhorn said an armed, masked band of about 30 or 40 men took the negro from him and two deputies last night as they were bringing him from Macon to Columbus to face trial. He had been in jail in Macon for safekeeping since his arrest.

Macon, Ga., News
March 18, 1936

Lynching of Negro Called 'Deplorable'

CUSSETA, Ga., March 18 (AP)—The lynching of Philip Baker, a Negro, near here last Friday night, was termed a "deplorable affair" in presentments returned yesterday by the Chattahoochee grand jury.

Expressing regret over the incident, the jury said no evidence was available as to the identity of any members of the mob which seized the Negro from Sheriff J. T. Van Horn.

Baker was charged with attacking one white woman and beating another and a Negro woman.

Ellaville, Ga., News
March 20, 1936

BODY OF LYNCHED NEGRO FOUND BY CHATTAHOOCHEE SHERIFF ON SWAMP EDGE

Sheriff J. T. Van Horn, of Chattahoochee county advised police in Columbus Saturday shortly before noon that the body ow Henry Phillip Baker, 35 year old negro, taken from him and two deputies by a mob near Junction City Friday night had been found riddled with bullets and with a rope around his neck a mile west of Box Springs, in Chattahoochee county, near the Talbot and Muscogee county line

The body was found by fishermen lying at the edge of a lake swamp and near a large tree where he had apparently been swung up with the rope and shot There were a number of bullet and shot gun wounds in the head and neck. The body was carried to Cusseta on orders of the sheriff. He was charged with criminally assaulting two white women and a negress of Chattahoochee county, December 30th last year.

Sheriff Van Horn and deputies were en route to Columbus with the negro from Macon where he had been held for safe keeping in the Bibb county jail since the day after the alleged criminal assaults near Eelbeck's in Chattahoochee county. He was to have been placed in the Muscogee county jail to be held pending the opening of court at Cusseta Monday morning by Judge C. F. Mclaughlin for the regular spring term of Chattahoochee Superior court. It was expected his case would be investigated there by the grand jury Monday morning.

Baker, who had lived in Columbus, was released from the Marion county chaingang at Buena Vista the morning of De- [illegible] 30, and the same day [illegible] he is said ta have obtained some liquor and after attempting to attack a white woman, who was accompanied at her home by a negro woman, was frightened away when the negress attempted to shoot him. He took the gun and carried it down the road for a short distance after unloading it.

A short distance from the scene of his first alleged attempted attack he accosted another white woman who was working in her yard with her baby in her arms. He is said to have taken the baby and pitched it on the ground, attacking the woman.

A posse soon formed and an all-day and all-night chase with dogs followed, the negro being captured that night by Muscogee county officers. Without delay he was spirited away to Macon for safe keeping.

Taken From Car

The men in the automobile with the sheriff and the negro were M. R. Hollis and Hugh Allen, who had been deputized b the sheriff to accompany him to Macon to carry the negro to Columbus The sheriff stated early Saturday that he had tried to keep his movements a secret, and that as far as he knew no one knew of his plans to go to Macon excepting himself and the deputies.

The Chattahoochee county officers left Macon about 8:15 o'clock Friday night with their prisoner. He was taken from them about two hours later by a mob estimated by the sheriff as numbering 30 to 40.

The sheriff said that he had noticed a car following his before re reached Junction City and that he speeded up in an effort to out-distance the vehicle,, but was unsuccessful. He said that about two miles west of Junction City, a mob had gathered in the road and that he was forced to either stop or run over some of the men.

Held up By Mob

After the sheriff had stopped his car, members of the mob approached and levelling shotguns on the officers forced them to hand over their pistols, the sheriff said. They unloaded the officers pistols and then gave them back to them, according to the sheriff.

The mob then took the keys to the sheriff's car and made away with the negro, driving in automobiles toward Columbus. No words were spoken by members of the mob while they were taking the prisoner from the sheriff and his deputies, Sheriff Van Horn said.

After remaining at the scene for some time, the sheriff found a second key to his car and was able to drive away.

Records show that Baker was arrested December, 17th 1934, in Columbus, on charges of shooting at another and having a pistol without a license. Negroes were involved in the case.

—Columbus Ledger.

Georgia Mob Lynches Negro

ROYSTON, Ga., April 28.—After being framed for "attempting to attack a white girl," shot three times by sheriffs, and narrowly escaping a previous lynch-attempt, Lint Shaw, a 50-year-old Negro farmer, was seized by a mob here today and hanged from a tree.

His lifeless body was found near Colbert, with his feet barely touching the ground and 100 bullet wounds. He was to have gone to trial at Danielsville a few hours before for "attempted assault on a white girl" and attacking the two officers who shot and almost murdered him.

4-29-36

Mob of 40

He was taken from the jail, after W. A. Dickerson, night police chief here, surrendered the keys to the jail to a lynch mob of about 40 men.

New York Age

Almost while the body was still warm, the coroner's jury hurriedly found that the Negro farmer came to his death "by gunshot wounds inflicted by persons unknown."

While Shaw was being lynched, he was in agony from the gunshot wounds inflicted by the sheriffs who had previously attempted to kill him. Blood poison had set in and physicians thought it necessary to amputate his entire right arm. He was also shot in the head.

There was never any evidence of Shaw's implication in the alleged crime.

After he was shot he was carried to Atlanta and placed under heavy guard in the jim-crow ward of Grady Hospital, city institution.

Maintained Innocence

To the last, Shaw, father of eleven children, maintained his innocence In an interview given while in Atlanta, Shaw said:

"I was on the floor in front of the fire when I heard someone scream. I told my children to keep quiet so we could hear. I had a headache and was resting. One of my children had covered me with an overcoat. The yelling was a good half mile down the road Pretty soon some cars came by and I went along to see if I could be of any help."

At the jail the girl who screamed pointed out Shaw as the man who "choked her." Shaw narrowly escaped lynching at Danielsville April 11.

LYNCHING VICTIM BURIED NEAR PAVO

PAVO, Ga., May 4.—(AP)—The body of John Rushin, 55-year-old negro who was lynched near here, was buried at the county poor farm today after having been moved to a schoolhouse yard by a band of unidentified men following a coroner's inquest.

The negro was shot to death last night in revenge for the slaying of Marion Pate, 24, in a scuffle with three white men on a truck.

The coroner returned a verdict of death from gunshot wounds at the hands of unknown persons.

Lynchings-1936
Cases of

Georgia.

5264

Hickory, N. C. Record
April 28, 1936

NEGRO KILLED BY GEORGIANS BEFORE TRIAL

Attack Suspect Shot To Death By Angry Mob

ROYSTON, Ga., April 28.—(AP)—Lint Shaw, burly negro farmer once saved from lynching through the pleadings of an aged judge, was shot to death by a mob of forty men eight hours before he was to have gone to trial on a charge of attempted criminal assault today.

His body was found at dawn, tied to a pine tree in a creek bottom near Colbert, Ga., his home.

Pierced by shotgun, pistol and rifle bullets, he died at the scene where two white girls reported he attempted to attack them after their motor car broke down April 10.

Two bullet wounds the negro received after stabbing two officers in resisting arrest had not yet healed.

The mob, climaxing a series of demonstrations against the 45-year-old negro which once required the intervention of national guardsmen, broke into Royston's one-story jail about midnight, cornered Night Chief of Police W. A. Dickerson and smashed a lock on the prisoner's cell.

"I couldn't see exactly what happened," Dickerson said. "They just told me they wanted the negro. He didn't say a word when they dragged him out."

Plowlines, cotton ropes used for guiding work animals in the fields, were cut up to tie the negro to the tree.

The jail here was the third in which he had been held since he was identified by the girls as the man who pursued them with a knife and threw one into a gulley. The assailant was frightened away by their screams.

First he was taken to jail at Danielsville, Ga. Enroute he stabbed the officers and was shot twice in return.

A mob of 100 men formed there and battered some bricks from the jail in an attempt to reach him.

Superior Judge Berry T. Moseley, 74, left a sickbed to warn the throng against a lynching, and deterred the leaders until a national guard unit, rushed to that city from tornado emergency duty at Gainesville, Ga., took the negro in custody.

"Stop violating the law by breaking into jail," warned the judge.

At Judge Moseley's suggestion, Sheriff T. L. Henley deputized several members of the crowd to help keep order.

From Danielsville Shaw was taken to Atlanta, both to save him from further mob outbreaks and to give him medical attention. He was returned to Danielsville last night to await trial before Judge Moseley, but a threatening crowd caused Sheriff Henley to move him to this city.

Inflamed citizens learned of the transfer and followed.

Several hours after the lynching Shaw still was bound to the tree as throngs assembled on the nearby highway.

Police Chief E. A. Elder of Colbert, one of the officers stabbed by Shaw, said some townspeople heard the lynching party pass early today.

"I was told that about ten or so cars passed through at high speed," Elder said.

Elder, knifed in the chest, was treated for several days in an Athens hospital and sent home to recuperate.

Sheriff Henley left his home at Danielsville to seek a trace of the lynching party. Dickerson said all of the men were strangers to him.

Dickerson said he told the men he had no keys to the negro's cell but they searched him and then, finding none, smashed the lock. The negro was dragged out and hurried away in one of the cars.

Dickerson said none of the band was armed, as far as he could tell, and that they did not treat him roughly while seeking the keys.

The whole affair was carried out quietly, the officer said, and no one in the town was aroused. The negro made no outcry as the band seized him.

Dickerson ran to a telephone as the men departed and notified Sheriff Henley. Officers searched the countryside all night for a trace of the negro's abductors.

Third Negro Is Lynched In Week

Daily Worker

5-5-36

PAVO, Ga., May 4.—A wave of lynch-terror against the Negro people sweeping the South, resulted in the murder of John Rushin, 55-year-old Negro farmhand, here today.

Rushin was lynched by a mob of 200 men near here, who riddled his body with bullets.

He was accused of slaying Marion Pate, a 24-year-old white man, with whom he allegedly had a fight.

Rushin is the third lynch victim within the space of a week. Lint Shaw, 50-year-old Negro farmer, was lynched last Tuesday near Royston, Ga., after being shot three times by sheriffs who arrested him. He narrowly escaped a lynching on April 11.

Willie Kees, 19-year-old Negro boy, was lynched by a mob of 10 masked men following his seizure from a sheriff at Lepanto, Arkansas. Both Shaw and Kees were framed for "attempted assault on a white woman."

In almost identical words, coroner's juries found that Kees and Shaw came to their death "by parties unknown."

Deputy Sheriff Herbert Kennedy said that Rushin was taken from him as he turned his head to answer a question asked him by a bystander.

The present wave of lynch hysteria against Negro people in the South has resulted in the lynching of three Negroes, all in the space of a week—the worst record ever known.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
HERALD-TRIBUNE

MAY 4 - 1936

Mob in Georgia Lynches Negro Held as Slayer

Crime Is Second of Week in State, Third for South; Body Dragged to School

Taken From an Officer

Reported to Have Admitted Killing of White Man

By The Associated Press

PAVO, Ga., May 3.—John Rushin, fifty-five-year-old Negro farm laborer, was lynched near here late today by a mob to which he is said to have confessed he killed Marion Pate, twenty-four-year-old white man.

Deputy Sheriff Herbert Kennedy, of Thomas County, said Rushin was taken from him by a mob of "about two hundred people" after he had arrested him in connection with the slaying of Pate, which occurred near the scene of the lynching earlier in the day.

Kennedy said that before the mob spirited the Negro away some one asked Rushin if he killed Pate and that the Negro replied "Yes," and added he also had robbed Pate.

Second in State in Week

The lynching was the second for Georgia and the third for the South in less than a week. Lint Shaw, forty-five, Negro farmer, was taken from the Royston, Ga., jail last Tuesday and lynched by a mob of about forty men. He was accused of attempting to attack two young white girls. A nineteen-year-old Negro was lynched by a mob at Lepanto, Ark., the following day. He also was accused of an attempted attack.

Rushin's body was found on the bank of a creek near a field where Kennedy had arrested him. The body was pierced with bullet holes and a deep wound ran across the scalp.

Coroner C. T. Cooper impanelled a jury to investigate the lynching, but could get no information as to the identity of members of the mob.

Body Left at Negro School

C. H. Green, one of the jurors, said that some time after finding of the body a Negro undertaker who was called was "scared away" and the lynch victim's body was dragged nude to the yard of a Negro school house and left there.

Kennedy said bloodhounds were set on Rushin's trail and he was notified early this afternoon the Negro had been captured. He found Rushin in the hands of "some 200 people," he said, near the scene of Pate's slaying and took him into custody. As he started for his automobile with his prisoner, Kennedy said, some one called him and as he turned to reply the mob rushed in and again seized Rushin. He was unable to follow the men because the ignition switch key had been removed from his automobile, the deputy related.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
TIMES

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MAY 4 - 1936

Mob Lynches Negro in Georgia

PAVO, Ga., May 3 (AP).—John Rushin, 55-year-old Negro farm laborer, was lynched near here late today by a mob to which he confessed that he had killed Marion Pate, a 24-year-old white man. Deputy Sheriff Herbert Kennedy of Thomas County said that the Negro was taken from him by a mob of "about 200 people" after he had arrested Rushin.

Ga. Mobsters Lynch Second Within 5 Days

200 Hoodlums Take Farmer from Deputy; Riddle Body.

VICTIM ARRESTED ON MURDER COUNT

Afro-American

No One Is Identified Through Inquest.

5-9-36

Baltimore, Md.

PAVO, Ga.—The third lynching within five days, the second in the State, occurred here late Sunday when a mob strung up and riddled the body of John Rushin, 55, a farmer, accused of slaying a white man.

Herbert Kennedy, deputy sheriff of Thomas County, said the victim was taken from him by a mob of "about 200 people" after he had arrested Rushin in connection with the murder of Marion Pate, 24.

Kennedy said that before the mob spirited Rushin away, some one asked him whether he killed Pate and that Rushin replied "yes." His death marks the eighth lynching of the year and the seventy-fourth during the Roosevelt administration.

Lint Shaw, 45, father of eleven children, was taken from the one-story jail at Royston, Ga., April 28, tied to a tree and his body riddled with bullets. He was accused of an attack on two white girls.

The body of John Rushin was found on the side of a creek near the scene of his arrest, riddled with bullets and bearing a long scalp wound.

Bloodhounds Used

Chased by bloodhounds, Rushin was captured near the spot where he was lynched.

Judge Thomas, of the Thomas County circuit, promised a complete investigation when called late Sunday.

The sheriff contended that he was unable to follow the mob because the ignition switch key had been removed from his car.

Georgians Lynch Negro For Killing White Man

Advertiser

5-4-36

Montgomery, Ala.

PAVO, GA., May 3—(AP)—John Rushin, 55-year-old negro farm laborer, was lynched near here late today by a mob to which he confessed he killed Marion Pate, 24-year-old white man.

Deputy Sheriff Herbert Kennedy, of Thomas County, said the negro was taken from him by a mob of "about 200 people" after he had arrested Rushin in connection with the slaying of Pate, which occurred near the scene of the lynching earlier in the day.

Kennedy said that before the mob spirited the negro away someone asked Rushin if he killed Pate and that the negro replied "yes" and added he had also robbed Pate.

THOMAS COUNTY MOB LYNCHES NEGRO MAN

Victim of Infuriated Throng Admitted Killing Young White Man

Constitution

5-4-36

Atlanta, Ga.

PAVO, Ga., May 3.—(AP)—John Rushin, 55-year-old negro farm laborer, was lynched near here late today by a mob to which he confessed he killed Marion Pate, 24-year-old white man.

Deputy Sheriff Herbert Kennedy, of Thomas county, said the negro was taken from him by a mob of "about 200 people" after he had arrested Rushin in connection with the slaying of Pate, which occurred near the scene of the lynching earlier in the day.

Kennedy said that before the mob spirited the negro away someone asked Rushin if he killed Pate and that the negro replied "yes" and added he had also robbed Pate.

The lynching was the second for Georgia and the third for the south in less than a week.

Body Found Near Creek.

Rushin's body was found on the bank of a creek near a field where Kennedy had arrested him. The body was pierced with bullet holes and a deep wound ran across the scalp.

Immediately after the body was discovered, Coroner C. T. Cooper impanelled a jury to investigate the lynching but could get no information as to the identify of members of the mob.

C. H. Green, one of the jurors, said that some time after finding of the body, a negro undertaker who was called was "scared away" and the lynch victim's body was dragged nude to the yard of a negro schoolhouse and left there.

He said Pavo policemen were on guard at the schoolyard and that members of the coroner's jury had telephoned Judge W. E. Thomas, of Thomas county superior court, in near-by Thomasville to "get something done about it."

Investigation Ordered.

He said Judge Thomas assured an immediate investigation when he was called late tonight.

Before the negro's arrest another coroner's jury had investigated Pate's death and decided he was slain "by John Rushin."

Kennedy said bloodhounds were set on Rushin's trail and he was notified early this afternoon the negro had been captured. He found Rushin in the hands of "some 200 people," he said, near the scene of Pate's slaying and took him into custody.

As he started for his automobile with his prisoner, Kennedy said someone called him and as he turned to reply, the mob rushed in and again seized Rushin.

He was unable to follow the men because the ignition switch key had been removed from his automobile, the deputy related.

Kennedy said he saw no guns in the crowd. Informed later the negro had been lynched he started a search and discovered the victim's body.

VICKSBURG, MISS.
HERALD

APR 29 1936

Mob Finally Lynches Negro At Royston, Ga.

In Three Jails Since Girls Accused Him of Attempted Attack

A giant negro, three times the object of thwarted mob action, was lynched today at the point where he was accused of attempting to criminally assault two young white girls.

Lint Shaw, 45, the sullen 225-pound prisoner once saved from mob vengeance by the dramatic plea of a 64-year-old superior court judge, was hustled out of the one-story jail here shortly after midnight by a band of 40 men a few hours before his scheduled trial.

His bullet torn body, tied by a cotton plow line to the branch of a pine tree, was found at daybreak in a creek bottom near Colbert, Ga. A quickly assembled coroner's jury returned a finding he died of gunshot wounds inflicted by "persons unknown."

Terrified members of the negro's family refused to claim the body, leaving burial to the county at its expense.

Night Chief of Police W. A. Dickerson, overpowered by the mob which smashed its way into the negro's cell, said members of the group were strangers to him. Sheriff T. L. Henley came here from Danielsville to investigate.

The lynching climaxed a series of demonstrations against Shaw, who had been in three different jails since the girls identified him as the man who attempted to attack them when their automobile broke down April 10.

The negro fled after drawing a knife and throwing one of the girls into a ditch.

Royston, Ga., Record
April 30, 1936

Negro Lynched In Madison Co. For Attack Crime

Lint Shaw, Madison county negro about 50 years of age, was tied to a tree and his body riddled with bullets near Colbert Monday night, as a result of his attack upon a white girl of that community on the night of April 10th.

The negro was placed under arrest for the crime shortly after same took place and, enroute to the Danielsville jail, attacked the two peac officers who had him in charge, inflicting painful knife wounds and, himself, being injured in turn.

When lodged in the Madison county jail a mob stormed the building the negro being saved at the time only by the persuasion for law and order on the part of Judge Berry T. Mosely and the timely arrival of several state millitiamen. He was carried then to the Fulton county tower for safe-keeping until Monday when he was returned to Madison for indictment and trial.

In the evening of Monday rumors of mob action again caused Sheriff T. L. Henley to use precaution, the negro being spirited away from Danielsville in a circuitous route and finally being lodged in the Royston city lock-up where, at around midnight, a very orderly though determined crowd came demanding the prisoner. After refusal to turn him over on the part of W A. Dickerson, night policeman, the crowd proceeded to tear the lock from the cell door, took him quietly and sped into Madison, near the scene of the crime, where he was tied to a tree and his body riddled.

A special term of court had been called to dispose of the case, Judge Thomas Murray and Hon. C. E. Adams of Danielsville having been appointed by Judge Moseley to defend Shaw on the assualt and intent to rape charge, while Howard Gordon had also been named to defend him upon other charges of assaulting the officers.

While news dispatches regarding the matter have gone out under Royston headlines, the truth of the matter is that, so far as we know, no Roystonion other than the two policemen knew anything about Shaw having been brought here, nor did but very few, if any other citizens, know about his having been taken from the local lock-up until the following morning.

Macon, Ga., News
May 4, 1936

FARM HAND DIES IN MOB ATTACK

Negro, Accused of Killing White Man, Abducted and Shot to Death

PAVO, Ga., May 4. (AP)—Lynch law, striking twice in Georgia and once in Arkansas, today had reached a new crest with the killing of three Negroes in less than a week.

John Rushin, 55-year-old farm hand, became the third victim near here yesterday when a mob of some 200 men shot him to death in revenge for the slaying of Marion Pate, 24-year-old white man.

In Atlanta, Arthur Raper, field and research secretary of the interracial commission, said he was "almost certain" that never in modern times had southern mobs struck death in three places in the space of a week.

Royston Lynching

Lint Shaw, 45, was caught first in the unprecedented wave of violence when he was spirited from a jail at Royston, Ga., last Tuesday and shot to death near Colbert, Ga., at the scene of a reported attempt to attack two white girls.

Wednesday 10 masked men wrested 19-year-old Willie Kees from a marshal's hands at Lepanto, Ark. He was found shot to death not far from the spot where he was accused of an attempted attack on a white woman.

The same day national guardsmen used tear gas to scatter a crowd which sought to seize Walter Miller, giant Negro being arraigned at Huntsville, Ala., for assaulting and slaying pretty Vivian Woodward, 19.

In each of the lynchings, a coroner's jury returned a verdict of death by gunshot wounds "at the hands of persons unknown."

Deputy Sheriff Herbert Kennedy of Thomas county said Pate was slain after he and Will Galey and Robert Burgess had picked Rushin up in their truck as the Negro walked along a road near here early Sunday morning.

He said the men fought in the truck and Rushin slashed Galey and turned on Pate who leaped from the truck with the Negro in pursuit. Burges drove Galey on to a hospital. Pate's knife-ripped body was found a few hours later.

Bloodhounds were called and Rushin was captured by a large posse not far from the scene of the killing.

Kennedy said he succeeded in getting the prisoner only to have the Negro snatched away as he turned his head to answer a query while on the way to his automobile. The mobsmen rushed the Negro away in a truck after the officer's automobile keys had been taken away from him.

Rushin's bullet-torn body was found later on a river bank not far away. The mob then dragged the corpse on into Pavo and dumped it on a Negro school yard, where it remained for several hours.

A coroner's jury was empaneled promptly but returned its inconclusive verdict after Coroner J. D. Cooper was unable to learn anything about the identity of the killers from Kennedy or other witnesses. Kennedy said Rushin confessed killing Pate before he was lynched.

Superior Judge W. E. Thomas at nearby Thomasville was notified by two Pavo officers and he promised a prompt investigation today.

The Negro's body was removed from the school yard late last night in a truck sent by county authorities after a Negro undertaker had gone to Pavo but turned back without getting the body.

As in the case of the lynching, officers said they did not know names of any persons who brought the body into Pavo. It was brought here several hours after the lynching, and after the coroner's inquest.

Lynchings - 1936
Cases of.

Georgia

5265

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
May 5, 1936

THREE NEGROES LYNCHED IN WEEK

Record Total of 1918 Still Unbroken, However, When 11 Were Killed by Mobs

TUSKEEGEE, Ala., May 4. (AP)—Mob violence which claimed the lives of three Negroes in the deep south in less than a week did not establish a record total of lynch victims, Monroe N. Work, compiler of lynching statistics for Tuskeegee Institute, said today.

The record of 11 persons lynched in a single week was set in 1918, Work said.

Rushin, 55-year-old Negro accused of the slaying of Marion Tate, 24-year-old white man, was shot to death yesterday at Pavo, Ga., by a mob which took him from Deputy Sheriff Herbert Kennedy, after bloodhounds had followed a trail from Pate's body to the Negro's hiding place.

Lint Shaw, 45, was the first of mob victims. He was taken from the Royston, Ga., jail Thursday and shot to death near Colbert, Ga., scene of a reported attempt to attack two white girls.

The following day, ten masked men seized Willie Kees from a marshal at Lepanto, Ark. He was found slain near the spot where he was accused of an attempted attack on a white woman.

Work said the Rushin lynching was the fourth in the nation for 1936.

Pavo Victim Buried

PAVO, Ga., May 4 (AP)—The body of John Rushin, 55-year-old Negro who was lynched near here, was buried at the county poor farm today after having been moved to a school house yard by a band of unidentified men following a coroner's inquest.

The Negro, the third to die at the hands of mobs in the south within a week, was shot to death last night in revenge for the slaying of Marion Pate, 24, in a scuffle with three white men on a truck.

The mob apparently had shot Rushin and then dumped his body into a stream nearby. When officers arrived the body was on a bank and a boy at the scene told of seeing men pull it out of the stream some time after the lynching.

The coroner returned a verdict of death from gunshot wounds at the hands of unknown persons.

After the inquest the body was taken to the school yard where it lay for several hours.

Officers said they were unable to learn anything of the identity of the killers.

Last Tuesday Lint Shaw, 45, was taken from the Royston, Ga., jail and shot to death at the scene of a reported attempt to attack two white girls near Colbert, Ga.

Next day, masked men seized Willie Kees, accused of an attempted attack on a white woman, and shot him near Lepanto, Ark.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.
EAGLE

APR 30 1936

2 Negroes Lynched, 3d ~~Saved~~ by Guards From Mob in South

Lepanto, Ark., April 30 (AP)—Three outbursts of mob violence within 48 hours—the slaying of two Negroes and a demonstration against a third which was frustrated by National Guardsmen—centered attention on the Southern race problem today.

All the Negroes were accused of crimes against women.

Willie Kees, 19, described by City Marshal Jay May as a half-witted petty thief, was shot to death by a band of 10 masked men who wrested him from officers here yesterday.

Tuesday burly Lint Shaw, 45-year-old Negro farmer, fell victim of rifle and shotgun fire of 40 men at the scene of an attempted attack on two white girls near Colbert, Georgia.

National Guardsmen used tear gas to disperse a throng at Huntsville, Ala., that threatened Walter Miller when he was arraigned yesterday on charges of assaulting and slaying pretty Vivian Woodward, 19.

Moultrie, Ga. South Georgian
May 7, 1936

NEGRO LYNCHED SUNDAY BY ANGRY MOB NEAR PAVO

John Ruskin Taken From Thomas County Deputy Sheriff And Shot To Death By Irate Citizens.

HAD SLAIN WHITE MAN

Marion Pate, Colquitt County Farmer, Victim Of Knife Wounds Inflicted By Negro.

Mob violence flared up again in this section of Georgia last week-end when a mob of angry citizens from near Pavo snatched John Ruskin, 55 year old negro farm hand, from a Thomas county deputy sheriff and lynched him a few hours after he had slain Marion Pate, a white man from Colquitt county.

Ruskin's bullet-ridden body was found a short time later partially submerged in a creek near the scene of the crime. A coroner's jury returned a verdict that Ruskin "come to his death by gunshot wounds at the hands of persons unknown."

Pate was slain, it was alleged, after he, Will Galey and Robert, Burgess had picked up Ruskin from the highway early Sunday morning. The men were riding in a truck.

An argument was started and Ruskin drew a knife and slashed Galey. He then turned on Pate with the knife. Pate leaped from the truck with the negro in pursuit. Burgess took the truck and rushed Galey to a doctor. Pate's knife-slashed body was found a short distance from where he left the truck.

A posse of nearly 200 men gathered and with the aid of bloodhounds traced Ruskin down a short time after the crime was committed. He was found less than a mile from Pate's body.

Ruskin was taken into custody by deputy sheriff Herbert Kennedy, of Thomas county. However, the mob relieved Kennedy of his prisoner — and his automobile keys—and rushed him away in a truck. The body was found later by a searching party.

According to deputy sheriff Kennedy, Ruskin confessed to killing Pate before he was seized by the mob. None of the mob members have been identified.

During Sunday afternoon Ruskin's body was dragged into Pavo by a group of men and left on the school yard. A negro undertaker was dispatched to remove the body, but turned back without it. County authorities removed the body from the school yard.

Judge W. E. Thomas, of Superior Court, has ordered a complete investigation of the lynching.

Funeral services for Marion Pate, who was 28 years old and lived on Moultrie route 3, were held Monday morning at New Elm church and were conducted by the Rev. J. C. Moore. Greene Funeral Home had charge of the arrangements.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Pate, one brother and one sister.

Quitman, Ga., Free-Press
May 7, 1936

NEGRO SLAYER IS LYNCHED BY MOB

John Rushin, Negro Laborer Killen Marion Pate Near Pavo On Sunday Morning, Taken From Deputy Sheriff And Killed By Mob Of 200 Men.

John Rushin, 55-year-old farm laborer was lynched near Pavo late last Sunday by a mob to which he confessed he killed Marion Pate, 24-year-old white man.

Deputy Sheriff Herbert Kennedy of Thomas county, said the negro was taken from him by a mob of "about 200 people" after he had arrested Rushin in connection with the slaying of Pate, which occurred near the scene of the lynching earlier in the day.

Kennedy said that before the mob spirited the negro away someone asked Rushin if he killed Pate and that the negro replied "yes" and added he had also robbed Pate.

The lynching was the second for Georgia and the third for the South in less than a week.

Rushin's body was found on the bank of a creek near a field where Kennedy had arrested him. The body was pierced with bullet holes and a deep wound ran across the scalp.

Immediately after the body was discovered, Coroner C. T. Cooper impanelled a jury to investigate the lynching, but could get no information as to identity of members of the mob.

C. H. Green, one of the jurors said that some time after finding of the body, a negro undertaker who was called was "scared away" and the lynch victim's body was dragged nude to the yard of a negro school house and left there.

He said Pavo policemen were on guard at the schoolhouse and that members of the coroner's jury had telephoned Judge W. E. Thomas of Thomas county superior court, in Thomasville to "get something done about it."

He said Judge Thomas assured an immediate investigation when he was called.

Before the negro's arrest another coroner's jury had investigated Pate's death and decided he was slain "by John Rushin."

Kennedy said bloodhounds were set on Rushin's trail and he was notified the negro had been captured. He found Rushin in the hands of "some 200 people," he said, near the scene of Pate's slaying and took him into custody.

As he started for his automobile with his prisoner, Kennedy said someone called him and as he turned to reply the mob rushed in and again seized Rushin.

He was unable to follow the men because the ignition switch key had been removed from his automobile, the deputy related.

Kennedy said he saw no guns in the crowd. Informed later the negro had been lynched he started a search and discovered the victim's body.

Pate was stabbed while he was driving a truck in which Rushin and two white men were riding. The negro had been given a lift by Pate, Will Galey and Robert Burgess.

Kennedy said he learned that the negro, in a drunken rage, lashed out with a butcher knife during an argument, stabbed Pate and wounded Galey.

Pate leaped from the truck and ran into woods beside the highway ,pursued by the knife-wielding negro, Kennedy said.

The deputy said Burgess than drove Galey into Pavo for medical assistance. Later, Pate's body was found in the woods near the spot where he had entered it pursued by Rushin.

Further investigation disclosed, Kennedy said, that the negro had fled his own home the night before after striking one of a number of negroes he had invited to be his guests at a fish supper.

Citizens from the Pavo section who were in Quitman the first of the week said the above account sent out from Pavo was correct. They said the killing and the lynching occurred in Thomas county and that the deputy sheriff had no chance to protect his prisoner from the mob and that the officer was threatened.

It was also said the negro was undoubtedly guilty but the better class of citizens deplored the lynching and the brutality which accompanied the whole tragic occurrence.

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
May 4, 1936

Georgia Negro Third Victim Of Lynch Law

Farm Hand, Accused of Slaying White Man, Shot to Death by Mob.

Pavo, Ga., May 4.—(A. P.)—Lynch law, striking twice in Georgia and once in Arkansas, today had reached a new crest with the killing of three in less than a week.

John Rushin, 55-year-old farm hand, became the third victim near here yesterday when a mob of some 200 men shot him to have the revenge for the slaying of Marion Pate, 24-year-old white man.

In Atlanta, Arthur Raper, field and research secretary of the Interracial Commission, said he was "almost certain" that never in modern times had Southern mobs struck death in three places in a week.

Lint Shaw, 45, was spirited from a jail at Royston, Ga., last Tuesday and shot to death near Colbert, Ga., at the scene of a reported attempt to attack two white girls.

Wednesday ten masked men wrested 19-year-old Willie Kees from a marshal's hands at Lepanto, Ark. He was found shot to death not far from the spot where he was accused of an attempted attack on a white woman.

The same day national guardsmen used tear gas to scatter a crowd which sought to seize Walter Miller, giant Negro being arraigned at Huntsville, Ala., for assaulting and slaying pretty Vivian Woodward, 19.

Killed in Truck.

Deputy Sheriff Herbert Kennedy said Pate was slain after he, Will Galey and Robert Burgess picked Rushin up in their truck as the Negro walked along a road near here early Sunday.

He said the men fought in the truck and Rushin slashed Galey and turned on Pate, who leaped from the truck with the Negro in pursuit. Burgess drove Galey on to a hospital. Pate's knife-ripped body was found a few hours later.

Kennedy said he succeeded in tying the prisoner only to

Negro snatched away as he turned his head to answer a query while on the way to his automobile. The mobsmen rushed the Negro away in a truck after the officer's automobile keys had been taken away from him.

His bullet-torn body was found later on a river bank not far away. The mob then dragged the corpse on into Pavo and dumped it in a Negro schoolyard where it remained for several hours.

Marion Pate, Young White Man, Slain Near Here, Negro Who Confessed To Crime, Seized By A Mob And Killed

Pavo, Ga., News
May 7, 1936

John Rushin, Negro, Is Taken From Deputy and Shot To Death After Confession.

The horrible murder of a young white man by a negro and the avenging of his death by mob violence shattered the peaceful Sabbath calm of this section last Sunday.

Marion Pate, a young farmer in his early twenties, was stabbed to death near here before dawn, and a companion, Will Gailey, was seriously wounded by a butcher knife in the hands of the same negro.

Before sunset the negro, John Rushin, was caught by a crowd of about two hundred men, with the aid of bloodhounds, in the woods not far from the scene of the crime. For a brief interval he was in the custody of Deputy Sheriff Herbert Kennedy, during which time he confessed to the murder. The mob closed in then, seized the negro from the lone deputy and quickly carried him away in a truck.

Not long afterwards the negro's body, pierced by several bullets and with a deep gash on the back of his head, was found dumped into a shallow stream in the woods a short distance from the Pavo-Coolidge road, and about a mile from the spot where Pate was murdered.

In a deplorable aftermath of the day's violence, the negro's body, late Sunday night, was tied on to an automobile, and after being dragged from the woods and through the streets of Pavo, was dumped near the negro school house in town.

"Parties Unknown"

A coroner's jury, impanelled Sunday afternoon, could obtain no information about the negro's death from a crowd of curious persons who gathered at the scene, and at the conclusion of an inquest held on the bank of the stream from which Rushin's body had been removed, the jury rendered a verdict that he came to his death "by gunshot wounds at the hands of parties unknown."

The Murder of Pate

Pate was stabbed to death in the woods near the point where the Boston road intersects with the Pavo-Moultrie road, about two miles north of town, after a fight reported to have started in a truck occupied by Pate, Will Gailey, and another young white man named Robert Burgess, and the negro John Rushin, and another negro boy.

It was reported that there had been trouble between the white men and the negro near Rogers' beer stand, and that Rushin, reported to have been drinking, is said to have cursed Pate, who is said to have struck him.

Despite this, the young white men allowed Rushin and the negro boy to ride in the rear of the small truck, and as they proceeded north on the Moultrie road the argument continued. The testimony was that as they neared the home of Mr. A. A. Wood, that Rushin whipped out a butcher knife and slashed Gailey and then Pate in the back, Burgess, riding in the middle of the front seat between Gailey and Pate, was not cut.

Pate stopped the car and leaped out, running down the road about a hundred yards and off into the woods with the knife wielding negro in pursuit. Burgess is said to have aroused Mr. Wood, at his nearby home, and the two rushed the wounded Gailey into Pavo for medical attention, leaving Pate and the negro in the woods.

Returning with assistance, Pate's body was found shortly afterwards in the woods about a hundred yards from the road, badly slashed and stabbed in the back several times.

The Thomas County Sheriff's office was notified, and Sheriff Davis, Deputy Joines nad Coroner Cooper came to the scene. An inquest was held, and the coroner's jury reached a verdict that Marion Pate came to his death by being stabbed with a knife in the hands of John Rushin.

Witnesses testifying were Robert Burgess, Tom Giddens, Will Gailey and A. A. Wood. The jury was composed of N. S. Fulford, foreman; G. W. Holloway, G. B. Nazworthy, A. J. Thompson and C. C. Daniels.

Blood hounds, said to have been secured from Brooks County, were put on the trail of the negro, and early in the afternoon he was caught by a crowd of men in a wooded strip not far from the scene of the crime.

Deputy Kennedy said he was told of the negro's capture, and that he went to the spot where the negro was reported to be. He said that he found Rushin in the hands of a crowd numbering about two hundred near the spot where Pate was murdered.

The deputy stated that he went alone to the crowd and took custody of the negro. He said that someone called to him and when he turned his head, the mob rushed in between him and the negro and spirited the negro away to a truck. He said that he had a pistol but would not use it for fear of hitting someone in the crowd. He also stated that he saw no guns in the hands of any member of the crowd.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the mob whisked the negro away down the road in a truck, and that he was prevented from following immediately because someone had taken the ignition switch key from his automobile and that it was some time before he could find it, and that meanwhile the mob was out of sight and he could not catch up with the crowd.

Kennedy said that while he had the negro in his custody someone asked Rushin if he killed Pate, and that the negro replied "yes", and added that he also robbed Pate. That apparently was a signal for the rush that took the negro away from the officer.

Later it was reported to him that the negro had been lynched and he went to the scene and found the negro's body lying on the bank of the stream from which it had been pulled.

Sheriff Davis was notified of the lynching and accompanied by Deputy Joines and Coroner Cooper, went to the scene.

The negro's body was found lying on the bank of the stream. His overalls were wet and half torn from his body. An investigation showed that several bullet holes were in his body and a deep gash was in the back of his head.

A large crowd of curiosity seekers coming from many miles around tramped through the woods to view the body and the scene of the earlier tragedy. The crowd was estimated by some to number as high as two thousand people.

A coroner's jury was impanelled for the second time during the day, but no information could be learned from those present about the negro's death. One young boy told of seeing some men pull the negro's body from the stream, but he did not know the men, he said.

The coroner's jury reached a verdict that John Rushin came to his death by gunshot wounds at the hands of unknown parties.

The jury was composed of D. S Chapman, foreman; C. H. Greene, N. S. Reichert, J. W. Chapman, Tom Carter and C. B. Maxwell.

Returning to Pavo after the inquest the officers notified a colored undertaking parlor in Thomasville to send for the negro's body, but the negro drivers, after being instructed by the officers where they could find the body, apparently became fearful of more trouble, and without making their intentions known returned to Thomasville instead of going for the body.

Sheriff Davis and his party returned to Thomasville, and later in the night unknown parties went into the woods, tied the negro's body to a car and dragged it into the negro section of town and dumped it near the colored school house. Local people being informed of this, a local policeman was detailed to guard the body while an effort was made to again communicate with the sheriff, but being unable to reach him by telephone, Judge W. E. Thomas was called and informed of the situation, after which he communicated with county officials, and a county truck was sent to get the body with white undertakers to supervise its removal. The body was taken to the county farm and buried at the county's expense.

Lynchings-1936
Cases of.

Georgia

5266

Handcuffed, Foot-Bound, Bullet-Pierced Body Is Viewed, Identified Mon.

World 12-29-36

Atlanta Ga.

Victim Accused Of Having Made Advances On Woman; Husband On Witness Stand; Continue Today

A coroner's jury this afternoon will continue its probe in the death of Mack Brown, apartment house janitor whose handcuffed and footbound body was found two days before Christmas floating in the Chattahoochee river near the bridge at Roswell, Ga.

Coroner Paul T. Donehoo opened the inquest Monday morning around 10:30 o'clock at the David T. Howard funeral home, but after approximately two hours of questioning the jury recommended that the inquest be continued this afternoon, starting at 2:30 o'clock in room No. 615 at the Fulton courthouse.

The death of Mack Brown followed closely an alleged complaint of a white woman who is reported to have accused the dead man of kissing her hand, it was testified at the Monday session of the inquest.

12-29-36

Brown was absent from his job several days before his body was reported found by a white woman at Roswell. It was testified that the Roswell woman saw the body when she carried her cow to the river for water.

Louise Wimber of 210 Butler street, the deceased man's niece, said she talked with her uncle at the apartment house the day before his sudden departure. The following day, she declared, another janitor employed at the same apartment could give her no information concerning the absence of Brown.

An effort to locate the janitor with whom the young woman talked on the first day Brown was reported missing, proved fruitless Monday. Coroner Donehoo requested that this janitor whose first name is Henry, be brought to the inquest. Two trips were made to the apartment at 1055 Piedmont avenue, NE, by a deputy sheriff and the manager of the apartment, but neither was able to locate "Hen-

It is believed that the inquest will necessitate the tracing of numbers stamped on the handcuffs that imprisoned Brown's hands. A proper tracing of the numbers may result in determining where the handcuffs were obtained, it was pointed out at the Monday session.

Two white men were reported questioned behind closed doors in connection with the mysterious death of Brown, but the result of the quiz was not announced.

As to the condition of Brown's body when it was removed from the river, testimony showed that two bullets had been fired into his husky frame, once through the lower tip of his heart and the second passed through both lungs. There was a deep gash on the left side of his forehead and across his back.

His mouth was clinched and still is, revealing signs of deep agony.

After the Roswell woman found the body, the chief of police there was notified and he relayed the message to Fulton county officers who sent a car containing four men to the scene of the tragedy. In the meantime, a David T. Howard ambulance was summoned to Roswell to remove the body to Atlanta. James E. Felton and Joe Hudson of the Howard company were in charge of the ambulance.

Both of the men described the death as horrible.

The testimony of the husband of the woman who is alleged to have declared that Mack Brown "kissed her hand" when she asked him how much he would charge her for fixing a shade, proved the highlight of the testimony heard Monday.

The husband pointed out the incident as it is alleged to have developed. His wife became nervous, he said, and only after constant pleading with her did she tell him of the affair.

The matter was carried to the solicitor's office at the Fulton courthouse. "We were referred to the police station," he added.

R. A. Medlock, agent for the apartment, was the next person approached on the affair, the husband declared.

After these personal discussions, Mr. Medlock told us that Mack Brown had been sent to the chaingang," the young husband stated to the coroner's jury.

"The first news I had of anything different was Christmas day when one our neighbors remarked, 'they found our janitor in a creek with his hands tied.'"

Brown was first missed from the apartment November 14. He was a tall, stout man and was about 35 years old. His wife, who is here for the inquest, makes her home in Canton, Ga. She had been married to Brown about seven months.

In a statement to the World Monday she said she knew very little of his business. "He had two bank accounts and an insurance policy, but I can't locate them," she said.

Besides the niece and wife there is a sister to mourn the passing of the victim.

NEGRO'S BODY FOUND, HANDCUFFED BOUND

Constitution

Creek Yields Corpse; Police Unable to Ascertain His Identity.

12-24-36

An unidentified negro, handcuffed and his feet bound tightly with wire, was discovered in Big creek in Roswell yesterday afternoon.

Atlanta Ga.

Police Chief S. F. He[illegible], of Roswell, said [illegible] had been shot three time[illegible] pistol.

Hembree and county police, who dragged the body from [illegible] water, said they had no report of any wounded negroes nor of any escapes from officers or jails.

Chief Hembree asserted the type of handcuff on the negro's arms was the same as most police departments use.

Coroner Paul Donehoo, notified by Chief Hembree, said he probably will hold an inquest today. The negro's body was brought last night to an undertaking establishment in Atlanta.

Mrs. Roy Durham, wife of a textile worker, discovered the body lodged against a willow tree in the stream yesterday afternoon, Chief Hembree declared. She reported it to him and Captain John Oliver and other county policemen were called.

The Roswell police chief asserted the negro, who was about 25 years of age and six feet tall, was shot twice in the back and once in the forehead with a pistol. He said the water in the creek had not been high enough to float a man until last Friday. The negro's body apparently had been in the water for several days.

Captain Oliver reported that Elmer White, Fulton transfer guard, had had his handcuffs stolen near Roswell six months ago after an automobile accident, and that the numbers of the ones on the negro would be checked with a description of White's missing handcuffs.

POLICE SEEK SLAYER OF ATLANTA JANITOR

Constitution

Body of Negro Found at Roswell Identified by Wife

12-25-36

Fulton county police last night sought to determine who killed the negro man found handcuffed and bound tightly in Big Creek near Roswell Wednesday afternoon [illegible] the body was identified as that of Mack Henry Brown, janitor at the 10[illegible] Piedmont avenue apartment house, who has been missing since November 14.

Atlanta Ga.

Identification was established by the dead man's wife, Odessa Brown, who viewed the body as a local undertaking establishment.

County medical authorities examined the body yesterday, removed three bullets and announced no inquest would be held. The bullets were recovered. The negro's neck was broken, they reported.

Elmer White, Fulton transfer guard, whose handcuffs were stolen near Roswell six months ago after an automobile accident, viewed the handcuffs found binding the negro and announced they were not his.

The negro was discovered lodged against a willow tree in the stream Wednesday afternoon. He had apparently been in the water for several days.

Lynchings- 1936
Cases of.

Mississippi.

5268

Small Children Pump Lead Into Lifeless Form of Victim

BOY 17 FOUND HANGING FROM R. R. TRESTLE

Mob Joins in Big Pre-Xmas Celebration

12-10-36

Washington, D. C., Dec. 11—The United States was asked this week to probe the lynching of 17-year-old J. B. Grant, who was found hanging from a railway trestle on the outskirts of Laurel, Miss., Saturday. It is believed the United States will take a hand in this matter the same as it did in the peonage case in Arkansas which resulted in Paul D. Peacher, city marshal of Earle, Ark., being fined and sentenced to prison.

Laurel, Miss., Dec. 11—(Specail)—Dixie whites staged a pre-Christmas celebration here Friday when the whole town turned out to join in the lynching of a seventeen year old youth, J. B. Grant. It was by far the most spectacular and gruesome event of its kind to be seen in these parts.

After riddling the youth with more than a hundred bullets, the body was tied to an auto and dragged through the streets, where thousands of white men, women and children cheered madly. At intervals along the route th car dragging the body halted so that little children, using their parents' firearms, could pump lead into the inert form.

Taken to the public square, speeches were made upholding white womanhood. "This is an example of what happens to darkies who forget their places," said one member of the mob. The cheers from the mob resembled that of a football crazed crowd.

When it was apparent that the crowd had grown weary of its three hour celebration, young Grant's body was taken to the outskirts of the town and hanged to a railway trestle.

BOY 17 FOUND HANGING FROM R.R. TRESTLE

Defender

12-12-36

Mob Joins In Big Pre-Xmas Celebration.

B-U-L-L-E-T-I-N

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 11.—The United States was asked this week to probe the lynching of 17-year-old J. B. Grant who was found hanging from a railway trestle on the outskirts of Laurel, Miss., Saturday. It is believed the United States will take a hand in this matter the same as it did in the peonage case in Arkansas which resulted in Paul D. Peacher, City Marshall of Earle, Ark., being fined and sentenced to prison.

The governor will be asked to make a complete report of the lynching. On the other hand, the NAACP believes the probe will help them in their effort to secure the passage of federal legislation against lynching in the 75th Congress, which meets in January.

LAUREL, Miss., Dec. 11—(Special)—Dixie whites staged a pre-Christmas celebration here Friday when the whole town turned out to join in the lynching of a seventeen-year-old youth, J. B. Grant. It was by far the most spectacular and gruesome event of its kind to be seen in these parts.

After riddling the youth with more than a hundred bullets, the body was tied to an auto and dragged through the streets where thousands of white men, women, and children cheered madly. At intervals along the route the car dragging the body halted so that little children using their parents' firearms could pump lead into the inert form.

Taken To Public Square

Taken to the public square, speeches were made upholding white womanhood. "This is an example of what happens to darkies who forget their places," said one member of the mob. The cheers from the mob resembled that of a football crazed crowd.

When it was apparent that the crowd had grown weary of its three hour celebration, young Grant's body was taken to the outskirts of the town and hanged to a railway trustle.

The lynch victim was put on the "spot" in typical gangland fashion. It had been suggested that he go downtown and see a movie. With his employer, A. J. Carter, the youth started out, then suddenly a car overtook the pair. Grant was shoved in the automobile and taken back to face the mob.

Shot While He Ran

"Do you want us to string you up now or do you want to take a chance on saving your life by running away?" One leader of the mob asked the boy. Grant professed his innocence, but despite this fact was ordered to run for his life. Before he had gone fifteen feet Grant had been shot down. It was then that every armed member of the mob fired on him.

At a coroner's inquest a jury returned a verdict that Grant had met his death at the hands of parties unknown.

NEGRO YOUTH IS LYNCHED

Daily Worker

Mississippi Victim Is 20th This Year in U.S. —All Were Negroes

12-7-36

LAUREL, Miss., Dec. 6. — J. B Gant, 17-year-old Negro boy, was lynched here yesterday. His body was found hanging from a railroad trestle, his own belt looped around his neck.

Sheriff Charles H. Thompson expressed the belief that Gant, who was employed at a tourist camp here, was killed elsewhere and the body hung to the trestle "to make it look like suicide."

"He could not possibly have hanged himself," said the sheriff, and a coroner's jury brought in a verdict of "death by strangulation at the hands of persons unknown."

Sheriff Thompson did not make public his reasons for believing that Gant was lynched and no investigation which might lead to the apprehension of the lynchers was announced. County authorities said they knew of no motive or excuse which might have been used as a pretext for the killing.

The murder of Gant was the twentieth lynching reported in the United States in 1936. All the victims have been Negroes.

NEGRO HANGED WITH BELT

Body Found On Railway Trestle Near Laurel Yesterday

LAUREL, Miss., Dec 5—(AP)—Local officers today found the body of J. B. Grant, 17-year-old negro, hanging by his own belt from a railroad trestle a half mile from the business district here.

First investigation failed to shed any light on responsibility for the man's death. The verdict of the coroner's jury was "death by strangulation at the hands of persons unknown."

Grant had been employed by a local tourist camp and was last seen alive last night.

Jackson, Miss., News
December 6, 1936

LAUREL NEGRO FOUND HANGED, LYNCHING SEEN

LAUREL — (Special) — Continuing their investigation into the murder of J. B. Grant, 17, Laurel negro, whose body was found suspended by his own belt from a foot bridge over a ditch on the Southern railroad right-of-way, officers expressed the opinion the negro was "strangled elsewhere and his body carried there in a car or truck to give a suicide aspect."

"He possibly could not have hanged himself," concurred Chief of Police J. E. Brown and Sheriff Charles H. Thompson.

While apparently without clues, Sheriff Thompson said that the investigation now centers around activity at the local tourist camp Friday night, where Grant was employed as a handy boy.

The negro was dressed in brown khaki trousers, which were opened at the front, and wore no coat when found. The disarranged condition of his clothing led officers to believe he was killed elsewhere. He was last seen alive Friday night when he was taken to town to see a show.

The mystery of the murdered negro, hung by his own belt and found dangling Saturday from beneath a railway trestle, confronted officers as they continued an extensive investigation.

"Death by strangulation at hands of persons unknown," was the verdict of the coroner's jury. The negro, J. B. Grant, 17, handy boy for a local tourist camp, was last seen Friday night when his employer, A. J. Carter, took him to town to see a show. His activity after that hour is not known by officers.

He was found hanging from beneath the trestle of the Southern Railway tracks less than half a mile from the business district. He had been dead five hours and was discovered by J. G. Sims, who notified officers.

✓

Lynchings-1936
Cases of.

North Carolina

5267

Claim Mixed N.C. Mob Lynched White Man

Special to Journal and Guide

RALEIGH, N. C.—A new wrinkle in mob violence was being investigated by Wake county officers here, who charge that Norris Clifton, young white farmer, had been strung up and flogged to death by five Negroes and a white man.

It was North Carolina's first case where a white man was lynched by a mixed mob.

Clifton's body was found early Tuesday on a high-way near Wake Forest. Three, one white and two colored are being held for investigation in connection with Clifton's death, while police sought three other Negroes.

Those under arrest are William Wadford, white and Oscar Gill, 60 and Dalphus Fort 80. They were held without bond.

No motive for the lynching had been discovered

Lynchings - 1936
Cases of.

Texas.

5269

Texas Has First Lynching of Year

CARTHAGE, Tex.—Texas contributed the year's first lynching, Thursday, when Mace Gray, 40, was slain here by a posse searching for a man whose car was said to have run down two white girls.

A number of white neighbors of the girls armed themselves and were permitted to join officers in the search for Gray, who was accused of being the driver of the car.

The victim is said to have barricaded himself in a barn, with a rifle and shotgun, to resist capture by the posse. His body was riddled with bullets.

Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynchings-

Lynchings-1936
Discussions.

5270

"PREVENTION OF LYNCHING" IS TOPIC FOR INTERRACIAL GROUP

HOUSTON.—In a oneday institute sponsored by the Women's Division of the Interracial Commission Monday, November 16, at the Y. W. C. A. the theme of the discussion was "Lynching." Mrs. James S. Crate, local chairman, presided. About 75 white and colored citizens attended.

In her speech, Mrs. Jessie Daniels Ames, executive director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, stated that in thirteen Southern states there is organized a central council of women, with 68 state and national organizations committed to the Interracial Commission's program against lynching; 55,000 southern white women have signed petitions against lynching.

In the discussions it was brought out that economics was the root of lynching, and that although there are other crimes committed against Negroes, that of lynching is most spectacular. It was suggested that when a lynching is feared, adequate protection and removal from the community should be given the prisoner affected.

Rev. J. W. Mills, of St. John's Methodist church of the city spoke on the "Origin and Causes of Lynching." He listed fear, prejudice, greed, ignorance, excitement and the assurance that no punishment would be meted as the chief causes of lynching. The major problem of Christianity is lynching.

In the same vein, Rev. Thos. W. Summers spoke on "The Effect of Lynching on the Church's Message to Non-Christian Nations." Other speakers on the program were Rev. Thomas O'Rouke, St. Anne's Catholic Church, and Judge Frank Williford.

The Houston Recreation department presented a play embodying the theme of the meeting, "Country Sunday." This one-act presentation was given under the direction of Miss Zora Gifford and Jackson Purdy of the Recreation department.

At an evening meeting for young people, Miss Sarah Beth Boggess, Girl Reserve Secretary of Houston Y. W. C. A., presided.

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Anderson, S. C., Independent Trib-
December 13, 1936

ANTI-LYNCHING MEET SET

COLUMBIA, Dec. 12.—(AP)—The association of southern women for the prevention of lynching will meet here January 16.

Columbia, S. C., Free Press
December 18, 1936

ANTI-LYNCHING MEET PLANNED

Women To Meet At University January 16 To Outline Future Plans

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching will hold a one day meeting at the University of South Carolina January 16, according to an announcement made today by G. Croft Williams, head of the department of sociology at the University. The University Y. M. C. A. Y. W. C. A. and the department of sociology will sponsor the meet.

Growing from the recognition of a small number of church women of the need for a continuous educational program against lynching, the organization now has 32,331 members and fifty-eight national and state groups committed to a specific plan of activities. All groups emphasize the falseness of the claim that lynchings are necessary for the protection of Southern womanhood.

Columbia, S. C. State
December 16, 1936

SOUTHERN WOMEN DISCUSS LYNCHING

Association to Hold Meeting at University January 16.

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching will hold a one-day meeting at the University of South Carolina January 16, G. Croft Williams, head of the department of sociology at the university, announced yesterday. The University Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A. and the department of sociology will sponsor the meeting.

Growing from the recognition of a small number of church women of the need for a continuous educational program against lynching, the organization now has 32,331 members and 58 national and state groups committed to a specific plan of activities. All groups emphasize the falseness of the claim that lynchings are necessary for the protection of Southern womanhood.

Lynchings-1936

Discussions.

Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynchings.

5271

SOUTHERN WOMEN OPPOSE MOBS BUT DODGE REAL ISSUE

Nashville Globe

Interracialists Talk Well But Do Nothing For Anti-Lynching Bill

5-15-36

Nashville Tenn.

Jacksonville, Fla., May 14—(ANP)—Stoutly declaring itself opposed to lynching but failing to take a stand on the Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynching bill, the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching opened a two-day institute here Tuesday.

The opening session was addressed by Daniel Raper, of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, and Harold Cohen, Southern editor of several newspapers, whose militant fights on behalf of Negroes have drawn comment from all over the country.

A pre-session meeting with Negroes was held Sunday in a large local colored church, at which time Mrs. Jessie Daniels Ames, executive head of the body, frankly discussed some of the factors she felt were attributes to lynching. A program of education, her talk brought out, is necessary to stop the lynch evil in the South.

The failure of the association to support its own tenet of backing "any legal measure that will stop the illegal murder of human beings by mob violence" may be attributed to the Negroes themselves in this vicinity, several of them refusing point-blankly to ask the association to adopt one stand or another on the anti-lynch bill. Of three officers in one movement that is pledged to back the bill, all Negroes, only one was even interested in soliciting support for the measure that is now lying dormant in congress.

A sweeping investigation of education and law enforcement methods was promised by the speaker of the association.

Johnson City, Tenn., Press
May 15, 1936

PUBLISHERS WILL STUDY LYNCHINGS

Southern Association Goes To Asheville

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., May 15. (AP)—Lynching and its treatment by the press is one of the principal problems scheduled for discussion when the Southern Newspaper Publishers' Association meets May 18-20 at Asheville, N. C.

On the opening day of the convention Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames of Atlanta, executive director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, will speak. Her subject asks "Can Newspapers harmonize an editorial policy against lynching and news stories of lynchings?"

Announcing a change in the program, Cranston Williams, secretary and manager of the association, said this year the meeting would consider mainly editorial problems rather than those of the business office.

"We are getting away from the business side of the newspaper," Williams said, "and have tried to arrange a program for discussion of public problems of the south." He added, however, that the association would not go into controversial matters or politics.

Mark Ethridge of the Louisville Courier-Journal and Times will address the convention on "The Changing Newspaper," and Dr. W. W. Alexander of the Federal Resettlement Administration, is preparing a talk on "What Can Be Done About Farm Tenancy?"

Daily newspaper promotion will be discussed by H. H. Moorehead, promotion manager of the Knoxville News-Sentinel.

Birmingham, Ala. News
May 1, 1936

NEW LAWS URGED AGAINST LYNCHING

Interracial Leaders Seek Stricter Provisions For Protection

ATLANTA—(AP)—Aroused by the lynching of two Negroes on successive days in the South this week, two authorities on interracial problems proposed new state laws and further educational work through churches today to check mob violence.

"Lift the trials out of an atmosphere of violence," suggested R. B. Eleazer, of Atlanta, educational director of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, in an interview. He proposed statutes making mandatory the removal of trials to distant counties when mob intervention might be expected.

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, president of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, said the work of the Methodist and Baptist churches was the "greatest hope."

Addressing Rollins College students at Winter Park, Fla., Mrs. Ames criticized an attitude which she said was fostered by some organizations, that "no matter how low a white man got, he was always better than any Negro who ever walked."

She said also that there was a class of white women who "on the slightest pretext claim they have been assaulted."

Eleazer cited the mandatory change of venue as a possible guard against such incidents as the shooting of Willie Kees, 19-year-old Negro, at Lepanto, Ark., the slaying of Lint Shaw, 45, at Colbert, Ga., and a demonstration at Huntsville, Ala., against a Negro accused of the attack-slaying of Vivian Woodward which national guardsmen broke up with tear gas.

"Something along this line is the only means that can be taken to get rid of the influence or intervention of the mob," Eleazer said.

He added the idea had not been discussed by the commission.

The educational director said determination of "what constitutes the emergency" which should call for a change of venue might "logically be left to the attorney general or the governor in each state."

Kinston, N. C., Free Press
May 29, 1936

"Judge" Lynch Is Intelligently Discussed

ONE of the most illuminating addresses delivered before the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association in its annual meeting was that of Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames of Atlanta, Ga., executive director of the Association of Southern Women ~~for~~ Prevention of Lynching.

Mrs. Ames gave some first hand information gathered from investigations personally conducted of mob out-breaks. Her address was bold and she did not mince words. She tore the mask of hypocrisy from much of the defense all too frequently offered for mob violence.

The Association of which Mrs. Ames is executive director was organized in 1930 by prominent Southern women who resented the oft-repeated claim of mobbists that "lynch law" was necessary in order to protect the virtue of Southern womanhood.

Mrs. Ames told her newspaper hearers very plainly that they were inconsistent in condemning lynching in their editorial columns and playing up such outlawry glamorously on the front pages of their newspapers.

She related several instances in her own experience, among them was an incident in Texas. Mrs Ames' account as recorded in Editor and Publisher is as follows:

> **"Houston, Texas, papers for two days," she said, "carried long stories and banner heads on the pursuit of a Negro accused of attacking a white child in a town 50 miles distant. Then the story was completely dropped. She investigated and found the clue in an obscure column of the newspaper. It told of bloodhounds racing back and forth across river beds and finally quitting in digust. Mrs. Ames investigated and found a reason. The trail led directly into the middle of the white posse. That was not carried in the newspaper," she said.**

There were several similar stories related.

Mrs. Ames advocated local and state correction of the lynching problem. She discounted the value and virtue of federal legislation saying the pending Costigan bill to make lynching a federal offense would not cope with the situation. On the contrary she predicted that it would probably result in an increase in the disappearance of Negroes and an increase of reported suicides of Negroes, even with the rope of the mobbists about their necks.

Mrs. Ames' address provided a basis for considerable discussion from prominent publishers gathered from all over the South, who applauded her courageous utterance and very properly so.

Charlotte, N. C., News
May 19, 1936

The Blame Misplaced.

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, yesterday addressed the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association, hereafter to be known as the SNPA, in convention assembled at Asheville. What she seemed to be driving at may be, perhaps, stated in one of her sentences, that—

> **"The editorial writer competes in a losing battle with his news stories. He is lost to the public, while that public reads on his front page—in language that fairly bristles with expressions calculated to awaken the ever-present fear and hate in the less-privileged members of the white race—a dramatic and inflammatory account of some violation of the white man's code by a 'giant Negro' . . . Whatever the editor may say after this is like the silent fall of dew after a terrific hail storm."**

Not a whit jealous of the front page, which is meant to be bold and noisy and important, we eschew that argument to take issue with the speaker on another score. Like the hail and the dew

of her simile, she is all wet. Examine front pages here and there in the South, which is the lynching field, and the racial violence that is given prominence there will be, nine times out of ten, that of the whites against the Negroes—in short, lynchings. A Negro may commit a crime in, say, Louisiana or Mississippi, and unless it is particularly bestial it is of real news value only in its immediate locality. But let the mob track him down and do him in and the story makes page one all the way from Shreveport to Salem, Massachusetts. Usually it will be accompanied by editorial comment on an inside page, where editorial comment belongs.

The Southern newspapers, which Heaven knows have their shortcomings, are not to be charged fairly with sowing the seeds of lynchings. Rather do they endeavor to the best of their ability to put the fear of the Law in the heart of the mob and to exhort the Law itself to take the Law seriously. In this State, for example, which had a lynching last year in Franklin county, the Law has been called by the newspapers every conceivable name short of spineless accomplice, and all to no avail. If the Law could be taunted into doing its plain duty, rest assured that *that* would make the front pages and the editorial columns too.

HANDLING OF LYNCH NEWS IS CRITICIZED

Southern Papers Taken To Task By Atlanta Woman In Asheville Speech

Advertiser

5-19-36

Montgomery Ala

ASHEVILLE, N. C., May 18.—(AP)—Southern newspaper publishers heard their handling of lynching news criticised today by Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, of Atlanta, executive director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

Conceding that papers generally condemn lynchings vigorously in their editorial columns, Mrs. Ames told the first session of the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association's annual convention:

"The editorial writer competes in a losing battle with his news stories. He is lost to the public while that public reads on his front page—in language that fairly bristles with expressions calculated to awaken the ever-present fear and hate in the less-privileged members of the white race—a dramatic and inflammatory account of some violation of the white man's code by a 'giant negro.'"

Mrs. Ames urged the publishers to see that all the facts in each case were made public. Citing instances of negroes being tried in alleged attack cases and receiving sentences of a year or some other similar short term, she declared:

"Any intelligent Southern newspaperman knows that when a jury of Southern white men gives a negro one year in prison or one year on the chaingang for criminal assault or attempted criminal assault upon the person of a white woman or child, there is something which needs to be explained."

Mrs. Ames characterized lynchings as "climactic of a type of violence which is aroused by playing upon fear and hate in human relations."

"Emotions which precipitate lynchings," she added, "are identical with those which plunge nations into war. Without hate or fear, it would not be possible to stage a lynching or a war."

Emanuel Levi, of Chicago, retiring president, told the convention that he was hopeful that "the time is not far distant when the first Southern pine newsprint mill in the South will be constructed."

The convention was attended by about 250. Officers will be elected tomorrow.

DAYTONA BEACH, FLA.
NEWS-JOURNAL

JUL 3 - 1936

THE PRESS STANDS ACCUSED

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames of Atlanta, speaking before the Southern Newspaper Publishers' association meeting this spring in Asheville, accuses the press of the south of fostering the spirit of hatred which results in lynchings.

She says this promotion is done, not in editorials—for on the editorial page, she says, the press is uniformly condemnatory of the mob spirit—but through news stories which employ "language which fairly bristles with expressions calculated to awaken the ever-present fear and hate in the less-privileged members of the white race."

She asserts that newspapers publish with prominent headlines on the front page stories of the tracking down of fugitives by mobs and to the sensational crimes which give rise to such episodes but give little prominence to the orderly administration of justice in similar cases where there is no mob violence. She says a "halo of chivalry" is thus placed around lynchers.

There is nothing sacrosanct about the behavior of the press. As a public servant it stands in the limelight exposed to criticism and the manner in which it does its job is a legitimate subject for public discussion. Therefore, this charge which Mrs. Ames has made merits some serious examination.

A certain part of Mrs. Ames' criticism is due to a fundamental misconception of the function of news reporting. Its purpose is not propaganda, however laudatory the cause. That which is dramatic in the day's happenings is news. That which is the most dramatic is front page news. A lynching is horrible, but it is dramatic. The orderly process of justice is more important, perhaps, but it is—thank heaven—more usual.

At the same time, there are things newspapers can do to make lynchings appear in an unfavorable light in the news columns, for the very reason that the net result of a lynching as an exhibit of savage mob reaction is "unfavorable." A really realistic account of a lynching certainly can not place the lynchers in a favorable light or encourage imitation.

For this reason, The News-Journal and many another southern newspaper has given instructions to the men who handle its news reports that stories and headlines tell the facts about lynchings, where they are available, and as little as possible convey the impression that they are a sort of glorified sports event in which a human being is the quarry. Care is taken not to overemphasize sex crimes which may have incited the mob at the expense of justice to the criminal. Noble efforts of sheriffs and other authorities to restrain the mob are to be described in detail and given due prominence.

It is abhorrent to some that newspapers have to mirror the faults as well as the virtues of society. Much good has been done, however, by unimpassioned, unsentimentalized recording of the evil that man does. Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn only if the countless thousands are made graphically aware of what is going on.

CO-OPERATION IS URGED TO PREVENT LYNCHINGS

Mississippi Conference Asks Aid of Press, Pulpit and Home.

[illegible] 29

WEST POINT, Miss., May 28.—(AP)—Co-operation of the press, the pulpit and the home to keep down the spirit of mob action, was urged today in an address before the Mississippi Council for the Prevention of Lynchings by Mrs. Jessie Daniels Ames, executive secretary of the organization.

She declared these three groups were powerful influences in life and asked their co-operation to "wipe out this crime."

The ultimate objectives of the council were outlined by Mrs. L. W. Alford, chairman of the state council, as:

1. To conduct four institutes in the state.
2. To secure the indorsement of sheriffs.
3. To increase the number of women committeed against lynchings by 1,500 and to increase the number of men by 500.
4. To secure the indorsement of four additional state organizations.
5. To give immediate publicity to causes behind every lynching.

Dr. Arthur Raper, professor of sociology at Agnes Scott College, Atlanta, said that lynchings bear a relation ot economic conditions, and declared that to "finally eliminate lynchings, we must get rid of tenant farming, rid of the socially and politically disinherited group we now have among us by making them feel they have some rights and some responsibility."

Lynchings — 1936
Discussions.

Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching

5272

Jacksonville, Fla. Journal
May 5, 1936

Menace of Lynchings Vividly Told as Women Gather Here

An almost general misconception as to the causes of lynchings in Southern states was clarified by Mrs. Jessie D. Ames in an address this afternoon at the all-day institute of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, in the Riverside Presbyterian church.

Mrs. Ames, executive director of the association, said that of the 168 lynchings in the past 36 years in the South, only 15 per cent were reported as due to assault on white women and only 10 per cent for attempted assault. Only this 25 per cent of cases involved white women in any way, Mrs. Ames said.

Of the 168 lynchings, according to Mrs. Ames, 63 took place in only 23 communities. There were as many as two to six lynchings at one time in one community, and only three women were reported the contributing causes in 63 cases.

BLAMES MONOTONY

Lynchings are seasonal, according to Mrs. Ames, who cited records to show that about half the lynchings in the South generally take place between June 15 to Aug. 15. In Florida, she said, most lynchings took place between May and August.

She attributed the seasonal nature of lynchings to weather, climate, idleness, unemployment and monotony.

Mrs. Ames said her association, organized in 13 states, will seek this year 6,000 more pledges by women against lynchings and 5,000 more by men. She emphasized that the sole support of the association's program was from the signers of pledges. It will seek also to obtain pledges from 400 more sheriffs, the enlistment of 1,800 more women and 400 more men as members, and that it will undertake an educational campaign in high schools and colleges among young women and men between the ages of 16 to 25.

HISTORY OF LYNCHING

The institute program opened at 9:30 a. m. with a devotional service conducted by the Rev. George E. Farrar, president of the Ministerial Alliance of Jacksonville.

The origin and causes of lynchings were detailed by Dr. Arthur Raper, research and field director of the commission on Interracial co-operation, of Atlanta. Mr. Raper said lynchings were more numerous in communities in which the standards of education, living and economics were low. He termed these areas the "belated frontiers."

"Lynchings are mostly racial exploitation," he said, "and in most cases can be traced to economic, political or other reason." In scores of cases in which negroes are accused of attacks upon white women, he said, the prisoners are not guilty.

He traced the history of lynch law and mob violence from several centuries ago in northern Europe, where constituted authority had not been established and where men took it upon themselves to punish offenders against the social order.

DELAYS OF LAW

The Rev. J. L. Rosser, pastor of the Riverside Baptist church, told of the effect of lynching on the church's message to non-Christian nations. He said that reports of sordid events such as mob violence were emphasized in foreign countries, particularly by foes there of the church, and that international relations were just as seriously affected by such reports as were church relations.

Mob Law in America as a Contradiction to her Christian Claim was the topic of the Rev. Armand T. Eyler of the Trinity Protestant Episcopal church of St. Augustine. Mr. Eyler emphasized instances of bungling by authorities in lynching and other criminal cases and inferred cumbersome methods in American procedure.

George Couper Gibbs, former judge of the circuit court for 23 years, spoke on Lynching and the Law, and defended American sheriffs and other officials and the courts in criminal cases. He emphasized that what seems unnecessary delay usually is a safeguard for the innocent man accused of crime, although in some instances the procedure could be reformed and expedited.

He said that delays in legal procedure and delays in reforming that procedure invariably may be charged to the "impassivity and indifference" of the American people. He spoke of mob violence as not being entirely the product of low mentality or morality, but in a large measure the reaction of human emotion to distressing circumstances.

Sheriff Rex Sweat, who has signed the pledge of the women's association, to uphold the law against lynching, spoke briefly after having been introduced by the chairman of the meeting, Mrs. William P. Cornell. . . .

Harold Cohn, managing editor of the Jacksonville Journal, whose subject was the Newspaper Attitude, said that lynching. while insidious in itself, was an indication of conditions even more insidious—ignorance and mob violence.

He pledged cooperation of newspapers in any campaign designed to eliminate lynching in particular and to promote education in general.

Luncheon was served at noon in the Riverside Park Methodist Episcopal church, after which a program, including the address by Mrs. Ames, was carried out.

There was a skit, Youth Challenges Justice, under the direction of Mrs. M. A. Salvo, secretary of the interracial committee of the Young Women's Christian association.

Youth and the Anti-Lynching Program was an address by Mrs. V. F. Sager, member of the Florida council of the association and a round table, Methods of Preventing Lynchings, a discussion in which the leaders were Mrs. Cornell, Mrs. O. O. McCollum, executive secretary of the Florida council, and Mrs. Ames.

THEIR PURPOSES

A statement embodying the policies of the association, as outlined by the speakers and issued for publication, emphasizes that the women do not believe they are going to stop lynching in a year or two. They have worked out two programs of action, one to be used when they believe a lynching is threatened, and another after the lynching has taken place.

Educational work is continued between outbursts of mob violence along two lines. The first directs attention to the menace of lynching to social order. The second emphasizes facts on lynching, always with repudiation of it, regardless of the reason for it.

The program of the association has been endorsed by more than a score of women's, church and other organizations, including several Florida groups.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.
JOURNAL

MAY 4 - 1936

RACIAL JUSTICE ADVOCATED HERE BY MRS, AMES

Director of Anti-Lynch Group Speaks at Three Meetings

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Mrs Ames, who also is director of Woman's work in the commission on interracial cooperation, with headquarters in Atlanta, spoke at a meeting in the Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal church, South.

The meeting was under the auspices of the interracial committee of the Y. W. C. A., of which Mrs. O. O. McCollum is chairman, and the negro provisional committee of this city, a sub-committee of the Y. W. C. A.

TALKS TO SCHOOLS

Mrs. Ames spoke today at the Stanton high school. She was scheduled to speak later to the class on sociology in Lee High school, at the invitation of Mrs. G. R. Franz, instructor of the class.

In her addresses today and yesterday, the speaker expressed encouragement over the growth of understanding and sympathy between the races and of increased interest by the white population in the welfare of the negro.

ALL-DAY INSTITUTE

She has come to Jacksonville to be one of the principal speakers on the program of all-day institute tomorrow in the Riverside Presbyterian church of the Florida council of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

The institute will be presided over by Mrs. William P. Cornell, chairman of the council, who introduced Mrs. Ames at the Ebenezer church meeting yesterday.

Tomorrow's program will open at 9:30 a. m. Speakers will develop the religious, factual, legal, publicity and educational aspects of the anti-lynching program of the association. They will include, besides Mrs. Ames, Arthur Raper, of the commission on interracial cooperation; the Rev. J. L. Rosser, the Rev. Armand T. Eyler, Judge George Couper Gibbs and Harold Cohn managing editor of the Jacksonville Journal.

SIGN PLEDGE

The Florida council reported today that Sheriff Rex Sweat of Duval county and the sheriffs of Columbia, Hendry, Nassau, Putnam St. John's, Okechobee and Volusia counties have signed the pledge against lynching in this state. The pledge reads:

"Believing that lynching is a crime which should not be tolerated in any civilized country, I pledge my support, as an officer of the law, to its eradication."

Jacksonville, Fla. Journal
May 4, 1936

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GREENSBORO, N. C.
NEWS

MAY 21 1936

STRENGTH OF NON-CONFORMITY.

While sympathizing deeply with the cause which Mrs. Jessie Daniels Ames, executive director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, presented to the Southern Newspaper Publishers association at Asheville Monday and never missing an opportunity to condemn the evil, the Daily News finds itself totally out of harmony with the approach which Mrs. Ames makes in her discussion before the section's newspaper-folk.

"Can Newspapers Harmonize Their Editorial Policy on Lynching and Their News Stories on Lynching?" is the question which the director propounded. By way of supplying a positive answer the speaker suggested the manner in which lynching stories should be written and the play which they should or should not have on the front page. And that's calculated to roil just about any newspaperman with whom Mrs. Ames or any other particularist, however, worthy his cause, comes in contact. When special pleaders tell what and how to write, particularly as to heads and their placement, they are more than likely to be told to stick to their knitting.

While the Daily News hopes and trusts that its news stories will be harmonious with its editorial policy, which is too well known where lynching is concerned to need any elaboration, it is more concerned over presentation of the facts, a presentation which will leave news stories standing on their own bottom and which, after all, should do as much as any other thing to arouse public opinion and curb the lynching evil. When it comes to making these news accounts propaganda for a particularist cause, there is a drawing of the line. If one particularist cause is served in such fashion, there is no end to the requests or the practice. A policy of making news stories harmonize with editorial expression and belief is dangerous business; it gets away from the fundamental purpose and obligation of newspapers to their readers and, destroying public faith and reliability, undermines editorial effectiveness. Once such a policy is inaugurated or makes any headway, the press will lay itself open to and prove guilty of charges which various critics are even now hurling at it. Accuracy and factual presentation, as deponent believes to be generally true in the handling of lynching stories, particularly in their broadcasting by press associations, are the highest goal of reporting.

Newspapers do become propaganda sheets in many instances, consciously or unconsciously; but for a high-minded organization such as that represented by Mrs. Ames to advocate such deliberate harmony between news stories and editorial policies is, in its general implications and fallacies, distinctly out of character. Asking newspapers to propagandize for anything is carrying friendship exceedingly far.

COLUMBIA, S .C.
STATE

MAY 21 1936

COUNCIL OF WOMEN WILL MEET FRIDAY

Group for the Prevention of Lynching to Hold Public Discussions.

The State Council of Women for the Prevention of Lynching will hold a meeting in the First Baptist church educational building at 11 o'clock Friday morning. The public is invited, it was announced.

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, Atlanta, Ga., president of the council, will preside. Mrs. W. A. Newell of Salisbury, N. C., superintendent of Christian social relations of the Woman's Missionary Council of the Southern Methodist church, will be one of the speakers. All interested women and especially all social service superintendents of all the churches are urged to be present.

The committee composed of the social service superintendents of all the churches, under the leadership of Miss Wheeler of the local agencies, will not meet Friday, but will meet at the chamber of commerce at 4 o'clock May 29

Durham, N. C. Herald
May 19, 1936

DIXIE PRESS AND LYNCHING'

We are not going to take issue with Mrs. Jessie Ames, head of the association of southern women for the prevention of lynching, in her contentions that southern newspapers have helped to cultivate a field of public opinion fertile for seeds of Communism and Fascism. Nor are we disposed to quibble with her when she charges that the front pages of our southern newspapers generate more mob spirit than our editorial pages put down. On the contrary we are somewhat in agreement with her in that editorial writers, in the north even as in the south, compete in a losing battle with the sensationalism of stories that precede and precipitate lynchings. And if Mrs. Ames or any one else can offer an effective remedy that is workable we feel sure a warm welcome awaits it.

It is, however, a matter of record that of all the institutions in the south, public or private, that have figured in the lynching picture, the newspapers stand as way out in front as decriers of lynchings and mob-law. There is not a newspaper hereabouts that has not and does not condemn mob-rule and prod the constituted authorities to get down to honest to goodness probing of lynchings and prosecute mobsters. True, the condemning is mostly confined to the period immediately following an outbreak of mob spirit and consists in the main of criticism of sheriffs, solicitors, judges and supposedly upright citizens for their failure to tell what they know and do what they are obligated to do under their oath of office.

But withal, when it comes to lynchings, newspapers have fewer things to be ashamed of than most any group we can think of and we can think of groups like the one to which Mrs. Ames avows allegiance.

The reason we have mob-rule and mob-lynchings is that too many of us are unable to practice self-discipline, a rather common trait with the race. And wnen self-discipline fails and society consistently refuses to provide a substitute, there just isn't any thing to hold the mob spirit in check. And until people in places of authority are made to treat mob-lynchings as outright assaults on the law they uphold and are made to tell what their eyes see and their ears hear and their minds understand, no amount of editorializing or moralizing is going to curb lynchings.

Now, it is perhaps within the power of the press to help kick out officers of the law who condone lynchings and punish people who yield to mob psychology. Certainly it is a job worth undertaking and sticking to. But too often too many people ascribe to the press public opinion moulding powers it does not have.

Lynchings-1936
Discussions.

Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynchings.

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HARLINGEN, TEX.
VALLEY MORNING STAR
FEB 1 1936

Hits Texas Lynchings

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames of Atlanta, executive director of the Association of Southern Women for Prevention of Lynchings, in a speech at Austin, Tex., called on Governor Allred to investigate the lynching of two Negroes at Columbus, Tex., and assailed the attitude of the county attorney there. (Associated Press Photo)

Birmingham, Ala. News
February 26, 1936

DISCUSSES RACE ATTITUDE

MONTEVALLO, Ala.—Mrs. Jessie Daniels Ames, executive director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, and who is also connected with the interracial commission, addressed the contemporary problems class at Alabama College Monday. The purpose of her visit was to give first hand interpretation of racial attitudes, which is the subject of the contemporary problems class under the supervision of Dr. Lee M. Brooks, of the sociology department. She is lecturing through this section of the country, coming from her home in Houston, Tex.

Jackson, Miss., News
March 1, 1936

REPLYING TO MRS. AMES

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, Atlanta, secretary of The Southern Association for the Prevention of Lynching, writes to the Daily News thusly:

> Newspapers which vigorously condemn lynching editorially frequently carry in their news columns stories of a lynching committed in their circulation territory which for straight distortion, suppression, and fabrication of the causes leading to the lynching constitute the rawest propaganda in support of this crime. The story is printed as it is sent in by the local correspondent. But we all know that these persons who want to continue to live in the community are surservient to the demands of local public opinion.
>
> Is there any way in which newspapers can check the facts back of lynchings? And if there is, would newspapers do this? Finally, would newspapers give these facts and refuse to be used by propagandists for lynching?

Our answer to the first paragraph of the letter from Mrs. Ames is that she doesn't know what she is talking about; that newspapers do not distort or suppress facts in regard to lynchings, or any other subject; that they print the straight news and try to get it as accurately as possible. Newspapers don't make crime. They merely tell about it, and when Mrs. Ames says they are "subservient to the demands of local public opinion," she merely slanders the press and gives evidence that she is just another propagandist on one side of a subject who is being paid for her work. However, she should be more careful about what she says, even if very little of her output finds its way into print.

Lynching is akin to prohibition. It is a subject that refuses to be settled.

NEW YORK TIMES
MAR 22 1936

SHERIFFS IN SOUTH OPPOSED TO LYNCHING

Signatures of 91 Law Officers Added to Those of 5,638 Women and 360 Men.

Signatures of ninety-one Sheriffs in fifteen Southern States where lynching has been most frequent were obtained during 1935 by the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, as reported in the summary of the year's work, issued by officials of the organization. In addition, thirty other officers of the law proclaimed their sympathetic attitude toward efforts of the association to eradicate the practice through its program of education.

Objectives for 1936 have been set at 500 signatures of Sheriffs committed against lynching, 6,000 more women and 5,000 men. Only 360 men signed the declarations in 1935, while the total of women going on record was 5,638. Endorsements were obtained also from a large number of national and State organizations whose memberships have demonstrated official approval of the work of the association, which was organized in 1930.

Investigations will be held during 1936 of all lynchings or prevented lynchings, and copies of the reports spread broadcast to organizations, newspapers and legal authorities. Mrs. Attwood Martin of Louisville, Ky., is chairman of the Central Council.

Jacksonville, Fla. Journal
April 25, 1936

MANY TO TALK IN CAMPAIGN TO STOP LYNCHINGS

Managing Editor of The Journal to Be Heard

Harold S. Cohn, managing editor of The Journal, has been selected as the speaker from the press angle on the program of the Institute of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

The meeting will be held Tuesday, May 5, in the Riverside Presbyterian church.

Announcement of the speakers was made today by Mrs. William P. Cornell, chairman of the Florida council of the association.

Among the other speakers will be Dr. Arthur Raper, research and field secretary of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, with headquarters in Atlanta, who will present the subject, The Origin and Causes of Lynchings.

WORK IN FLORIDA

Mrs. James Daniel Ames, executive director of the association, will outline methods of adult education against lynching. Mrs. Ames will take part in a round table discussion on methods of preventing lynching in Florida, which will close the sessions in the afternoon and which will be led by Mrs. Cornell and Mrs. O. O. McCollum, executive secretary of the Florida council.

The Christian application of the anti-lynching program will be presented by the Rev. J. L. Rosser, pastor of the Riverside Baptist church, and the Rev. Malcolm Lockhart, D. D., rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd.

JUDGE GIBBS TO TALK

Judge George Couper Gibbs, former judge of the fourth judicial circuit of Florida and prominent in the governor's crime commission, will speak on Lynching and the Law.

Two leaders in youth movements, Mrs. M. A. Salvo secretary of the local Y. W. C. A., and Mrs. Virginia F. Sager of Tampa will cover the field of creating a public opinion among the young people of the state against mob violence.

The association is composed of a group of southern women and men, who have banded together with the purpose of creating a new public opinion against lynching "for any cause."

NO PROTECTION

"The declaration of the organization, which has been signed by some 2,000 women in the state, reads in part," Public opinion has accepted too easily the claim of lynchers and mobsters that they were acting solely in the defense of womanhood. In the light of facts, this claim can no longer be used as a protection to those who lynch. We pledge ourselves to create new public opinion in the South, which will not condone for any reason whatever acts of mobs or lynchers."

Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union
April 26, 1936

Prevention of Lynching Will Be Discussed

Institute on Subject to Be Held in Local Church on May 5.

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, an association numbering some 27,000 women and men in the Southern States as its members, some 1200 of whom are to be found in Florida, is to hold an Institute in the Riverside Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, Tuesday, May 5, at which time speakers of both national and local repute are to present an educational program.

Mrs. William P. Cornell, of this city, chairman of the Florida Council, under whose leadership the Institute will be held, announced last night that she expects the co-operation of the churches of the city in the program and that special invitations have been issued to all ministers of the city as well as to some 300 signers of the Declaration of the Association against lynching "for any cause," who reside in Duval County.

Mrs. O. O. McCollum, chairman of the interracial committee of the Y. W. C. A. and a leader in the Methodist Church, is the executive secretary of the Forida Council and is working with the chairman in the plans for the Institute.

The hour of 9:30 A. M. has been set as the time for the opening devotional service. The Rev. George E Farrar, president of the Ministerial Alliance of the city and pastor of Snyder Memorial Methodist Church will conduct the service.

Dr. Raper Will Speak.

Special emphasis is being laid on the first address of the morning. This will be delivered at 9:45 A. M. by Dr. Arthur Raper, research and field secretary of the home office of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation in Atlanta. Dr. Raper is an authority on the origin and causes of lynching and has written a book on this subject which is known throughout the country by those who are studying the problem. It is being urged that all who attend the Institute hear Dr. Raper as it is felt that in so doing the following addresses will have a factual background that will make them more convincing and effective.

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive secretary of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, whose home office is also in Atlanta, also will be a speaker on the Jacksonville Institute program. She will speak in the afternoon session on the subject "Adult Education Against Lynching." She will also join in conducting the round table on "Methods of Preventing Lynchings in Florida," which will be led by Mrs. Cornell and Mrs. McCollum.

The Christian's attitude toward lynching and the effect of this in prosecuting the church's program will be presented by the Rev. J. L. Rosser, pastor of the Riverside Baptist Church, and the Rev. Malcolm W. Lockhart, D. D., rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd. Dr. Rosser will discuss the "Effect of Lynching on the Church's Message to Non-Christian Nations," and Dr. Lockhart will take as his subject, "Mob Law in America a Contradiction to her Christian Claim."

George Couper Gibbs, for 23 years judge of the Fourth Judicial Circuit will speak on Lynching and the Law, and Harold Cohn, managing editor of the Jacksonville Journal, will discuss the "Contribution Which Can Be Made by the Press Towards the Education of Public Opinion Against Lynching."

Others Will Speak.

Two speakers will have suggestions to make as to how to reach the youth of the State with the anti-lynching program. Mrs. M. A. Salvo, secretary of the local Y. W. C. A. and of the Y's interracial committee, has written a skit entitled "Youth Challenges Justice," and will present it at the afternoon session. Mrs. V. F. Sager of Tampa, a member of the Florida Council of the Association, will have something to say on the Youth Program to be undertaken by the Florida Council.

While in Jacksonville Mrs. Ames has several speaking engagements in addition to the Institute on May . She is said to be a speaker of force and charm and to know her subject through many years of study and actual work.

On Sunday, May 3, Mrs. Ames will speak to a large negro group in the Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church, Clay and Ashley Streets. This meeting is called for P. M. and is under the direction of the interracial committee of the Y. W. C. A. and its extension committee of negro women.

On Monday Mrs. Ames has been invited to speak to the class on sociology at the Lee High School at 1 P. M. This class is under the leadership of Mrs. G. R. Franz.

Other speaking engagement have been made for Mrs. Ames in DeLand, Winter Park and Lakeland prior to her arrival in Jacksonville.

Greensboro N. C. News
May 2-1936

LOOKS TO CHURCHES TO STOP LYNCHINGS

Winter Park, Fla., May 1.—(AP)—Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, of Atlanta, president of the Association of Southern Women for Prevention of Lynching, said today the work of the Methodist and Baptist churches in southern states was the "greatest hope of the movement to end lynchings."

She made the assertion in an address before Rollins college students here tonight.

Mrs. Ames criticized any type of so-called patriotic ideal which might tend to foster the attitude that "no matter how low a white man got, he was always better than any negro who ever walked."

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
March 30, 1936

An Important Move

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching this year is going directly to law-enforcement officers to obtain definite disapproval of mob violence. The plan is to visit at least 500 sheriffs in areas where the crime is most prevalent. They will be given information about lynching and urged to do their part in preventing it. Ninety-one officers in 15 different states were pledged last year to fight lynching.

"This is the sane, practical program," *The Richmond News Leader* believes. "Unlike numerous long-range attacks upon the evil, it pushes into the remote places of which outsiders never hear until the headlines scream of another outrage. A front line is to be formed where the battle must finally be won. . . . It will enable them to prove that the problem is deeper than law and that its complete solution depends on the conquest of poverty and of ignorance."

How well *The News Leader* explains the evil in that last sentence! But a great deal can be done, of course, by the law-enforcement officers, and it is they whom the association will attempt to enlist under its banner. The work deserves the wholehearted support of the Southern states.

Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union
May 1, 1936

Atlantan Hits Legionnaires

Charges Encouragement for "Rule of the Rope."

WINTER PARK, April 30. (AP)—Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames of Atlanta, president of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, today said the American Legion and its auxiliary indirectly encourage the "rule of the rope" in the South.

Addressing Rollins College students here, Mrs. Ames said the Legion and the auxiliary sponsor an ideal of patriotism which is partly responsible for the attitude that "no matter how low a white man got, he was always better than any negro who ever walked."

She said the work of the Methodist and Baptist Churches in Southern States was the greatest hope of the movement to end lynchings.

"If we can get Methodists and Baptists, who are predominant in the South, to stop lynching we will make some real progress," she declared adding that she is a Methodist.

Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union
May 3, 1936

Institute on Lynching to Be Conducted

Sessions Will Be Held Here Tuesday in Riverside Church.

The Riverside Presbyterian Church, Park and Post Streets, will be host Tuesday to an Institute under auspices of the Florida Council of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. Mrs William P. Cornell, chairman of the Florida Council, and Mrs. O. O. McCollum, executive secretary, stated yesterday that there are some 2700 members of the association throughout the Southern States, and that some 1200 of these are connected with the Florida Council.

The Institute Tuesday will present a program of education against the rule of mob law, especially as it pertains to the crime of lynching, it was stated. It is scheduled to bring together a group of ministers, representatives of the congregations of the city, signers of the Declaration of the Association Against Lynching, both from Duval County and other parts of the State. Programs and special invitations, it was said, have been mailed throughout the county and to interested individuals outside the county.

The association stands for the education of public opinion against the crime of lynching, "for any cause," and to this end the speakers on Tuesday's program will present the subject under consideration from the religious, the legal, the press and the educational angles. As a a part of the educational program, Mrs. M. A. Salvo, secretary of the interracial committee of the Y. W. C. A., will present a skit entitled "Youth Challenges Justice."

"The Origin and Causes of Lynching" will be outlined by the country's outstanding expert in this subject. Dr. Arthur Raper, research and field secretary of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, with headquarters in Atlanta, will be in Jacksonville to present this important part of the program and it has been urged that, wherever possible, all planning to attend the institute, will hear Dr. Raper at 9:45 A. M. for it is felt that he will formulate a basis of understanding for the addresses that are to follow.

Mrs. Ames to Speak.

Later in the day, Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive director of the association, also from headquarters in Atlanta, will have much to say regarding the education of a new public opinion against lynching. Mrs. Ames is also an expert in the cause to which she has devoted her life. In addition to her presentation of the educational program of the association, she will answer questions during the round table which will be conducted after luncheon by the Florida leaders.

Two addresses will be made in the morning by religious leaders of the State. The Rev. J. L. Rosser, pastor of the Riverside Church, will speak on the "Effect of Lynching on the Church's Message to Non-Christian Nations," and the Rev. Armand T. Taylor, rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Augustine, will speak on "Mob Law in America a Contradiction to Her Christian Claim." In connection with the latter address, the Florida leaders have announced that Dr Malcolm W. Lockhart, of the Church of the Good Shepherd, this city, would be the speaker. Dr. Lockhart has been called to a very important meeting in Sewanee, Tenn., and the Rev. Mr. Eyler has been selected to take his place. Mr. Eyler is a newcomer to the Diocese of Florida but he already has demonstrated his ability as a speaker of exceptional force and ability, it was said.

George Couper Gibbs, for 23 years judge of the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida, will discuss "Lynching and the Law," and will endeavor to answer the claims of those who say "lynchings occur because the law is too slow to act, and because criminals do not serve their sentences but are paroled or pardoned."

What the press can do to educate public opinion against mob law, through both its editorial policy and its factual news reports, will be discussed by Harold Cohn, managing editor of the Jacksonville Journal.

Will Lead Discussion.

Mrs. V. F. Sager of Tampa, a member of the Florida Council, has been imported to lead the discussion in the educational program among the youth of the land. and she, too, is reported to be a speaker of ability.

Mrs. Edward P. Pfaff has assumed charge of the luncheon which will be served at a nominal cost in the Riverside Park Methodist Church at 12:30 P. M. Mrs. Pfaff and her committee have requested that reservations for the luncheon be phoned the church office, telephone 7-2289, Monday and up to 10 A. M. Tuesday.

Special invitations have been issued to the Rev. Drs. Kissling and French, pastors of the two host churches; and to all the speakers on the program, to lunch with the Florida officers at the guest table.

It has been suggested that three members from each organization in the city churches shall be appointed to attend the institute sessions and to carry back to their groups the information gained. Special emphasis has been laid on the attendance of church leaders in Christian social service work under whose program it is thought the work of the Association for the Prevention of Lynching properly belongs. All interested persons are invited to attend the institute sessions.

Officers of the Florida Council are: Mrs. William P. Cornell, chairman; Mrs. O. O. McCollum, executive secretary, and Miss Grace Dalloz, all of Jacksonville, secretary.

Members of the Florida Council include Mesdames Walter S. Jones, I. L. Kaplan, M. M. Lander, Malcolm McClelland, Josephine K. Maner, John L. Oldham, J. D. Russell, E. L. Vordermark, M. A. Salvo, Edward P. Pfaff, Robert J. Rives, Leona O. Gaston, J. M. Edenfield, T. E. Overby and the Misses Ray Halle and Louise Smith of Jacksonville; Mrs. V. F. Sager, of Tampa; Mrs. C. C. Simpson of Ocala, Miss O. I. Woodley of Mineola, Mrs. Edna Giles Fuller of Orlando and Mrs. Ruth Atkinson of Tallahassee and Jacksonville.

Lynchings - 1936
Discussions.

Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynchings.

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LYNCHBURG, VA.
NEWS
MAY 22 1936

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames is the executive director of the Association of Southern Woman for the Prevention of Lynching.

The purpose of the association is implied in its name. It is a purpose with which most persons, even in that supposedly benighted region south of an imaginary line drawn many years ago, will have sympathy, some of it lukewarm and some of it red hot. That of The News, it ought not to be necessary to add, is the latter. The policies and methods of the association are not well enough known in these parts for conclusion as to their value. By and large they may be sound and productive of good. So mote it be.

There is but a pious hope, however, if Mrs. Ames' address before a meeting of tne Southern Newspaper Publishers' Association at Asheville is a fair example of the attitude and the judgment of organizers, officers and members. "Can Newspapers Harmonize Their Editorial Policy On Lynching And Their News Stories on Lynching?" was the subject and the answer was that most of them do not, but that they can if they will follow her suggestions. These included the manner in which the news stories should be written, the prominence to be given to them by position and headline and other details. Her idea seems to be that the news stories should be written in a way to show disgust with lynching and that they should be relegated to secondary place. Apparently she belongs to that school which believes that realistic accounts of happenings do harm and that there is some relation between suppression of the news of evil and the suppression of evil.

Like most newspapers The Petersburg Progress-Index is inclined to doubt the value of that theory. Instead of inspiring others to crime, it thinks, "a realistic and horrible account of a lynching confirms the resolution of a greater number of persons to do everything in their power to wipe out this evil." It doesn't, however, wish to speak with too much certainty. The problem "involves psychological elements which can not be tabulated and weighed precisely."

The News understands that too much prominence can be given to crime. It understands that crime can be reported in a way to foster it. It understands that crime isn't all the news and should not be treated as if it were. Incidentally it isn't in the vast majority of newspapers. The amount of space and the display given crime stories is always exaggerated by those who think suppression of record of fact will eliminate the fact. At the moment, however, The News is not primarily interested in the discussion of this ancient question. It is interested more in the implication of Mrs. Ames' subject. "Can Newspapers Harmonize Their Editorial Policy on Lynching and Their News Stories on Lynching?" They can; but they shouldn't.

The question implies that newspapers should handle news as propaganda, as aids to editorial policy. When a publication does that it ceases to be a newspaper. It is not primarily concerned with giving the news. It isn't playing fair with its reading public. It is impossible, of course, always to hold a mirror up to nature, even if it were always desirable. Newspapers are published by human beings and human beings have prejudices and selfish interests to serve. That being so, the news columns are not always what they should be and headlines sometimes give a twist to facts or a prominence to facts that the facts themselves as news do not justify. Yet a newspaper that deliberately adopts the policy of harmonizing its news stories and its headlines and its make-up with its editorial policy is not a newspaper, but an organ of opinion—and in disguise. Every newspaper should be more concerned with the presentation of the facts than with the advancement of any cause or the suppression of any evil. More often than not, nearly always, publicity helps suppress evil, but that is not the primary object. That object is to present the news according to its interest, importance and value. It is not necessary here to go into that interminable discussion of whether interest, importance or value comes first; it is necessary only to point out that the news fairly and adequately and accurately presented is the main purpose and that when attempt is made to harmonize news presentation with editorial policy that purpose is defeated, or, at least made secondary.

The principle applies to reports of lynchings. Nothing should be given that isn't necessary to fair and adequate and accurate presentation of the facts and nothing should be suppressed because it doesn't harmonize with the editorial views of the paper.

And that is why The News is more interested in rejecting the implication that treatment of news should harmonize with the editorial policy of the paper than it is in debating whether such a policy would or would not help the war on lynching.

Any presentation of evidence that there is propaganda in newspapers, that news columns and editorial policy often are suspiciously harmonious, that practice is not always in accord with the precepts here set forth is ruled out of order. It is human to err, but it is devilish to err as a deliberately adopted policy.

McComb, Miss. Enterprise
June 3, 1936

LOCAL WOMAN WILL CONDUCT AN INSTITUTE

Anti-Lynching Program Is Announced For Hattiesburg by Mrs. Alford

Mrs. L. W. Alford today announced a two-day session of the Mississippi Council for Prevention of Lynching at State Teachers' College, Hattiesburg, June 4 and 5.

The institute program opens at 2:00 p. m. Thursday with the Rev. T. O. Prewitt, pastor of the Broad Street Methodist Church, conducting the devotional.

At 2:30 there will be a panel discussion on the topics "News Behind the News," and "Factual Newspaper Reports Needed."

Special Speakers

At 3:00 o'clock Mrs. Jessie Daniels Ames, executive director, will address the institute on "The Press, the Home, and Church Great Factors in Eradication of Lynching."

When the evening session begins at 7:30 p. m. Dr. Henry M. Bullock, professor of Religious Education at Millsaps College will speak on "Mob Law in America a Contradiction to Her Christian Claim."

At 8:15, Dr. J. T. Leggett, pastor of the Main Street Church Hattiesburg, will speak on "The Effect of Lynching on the Churches' Message to Non-Christian Nations."

The Rev. C. A. Schultz, pastor of the Court Street church, will lead the closing prayer, ending the evening session.

Friday at 9:00 a. m., Mrs. L. W. Alford, chairman of the council, will open the program. Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames will lead a round table discussion on the following divisions of topics:

(A) Adult Education and Education of Young People; State Institutions; Civic Institutions; Religious Institutions; Approach to Young People.

(B) Methods of Preventing Lynching; Direct Agitation Through Organizations; Direct Action on County Officers; Distribution and Dissemination of Factual Information on Lynchings; Public Approval of Officers in Prevented Lynchings.

At 11:00 a. m. Mrs. Eurie M. Weston of Jackson will discuss "A Part of Our Missionary Program."

The institute will adjourn at 11:30 a. m.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
May 29, 1936

CO-OPERATION IS URGED TO PREVENT LYNCHINGS

Mississippi Conference Asks Aid of Press, Pulpit and Home.

WEST POINT, Miss., May 28.—(AP)—Co-operation of the press, the pulpit and the home to keep down the spirit of mob action was urged today in an address before the Mississippi Council for the Prevention of Lynchings by Mrs. Jessie Daniels Ames, executive secretary of the organization.

She declared these three groups were powerful influences in life and asked their co-operation to "wipe out this crime."

The ultimate objectives of the council were outlined by Mrs. L. W. Alford, chairman of the state council, as:

1. To conduct four institutes in the state.
2. To secure the indorsement of sheriffs.
3. To increase the number of women committeed against lynchings by 1,500 and to increase the number of men by 500.
4. To secure the indorsement of four additional state organizations.
5. To give immediate publicity to causes behind every lynching.

Dr. Arthur Raper, professor of sociology at Agnes Scott College, Atlanta, said that lynchings bear a relation ot economic conditions, and declared that to "finally eliminate lynchings, we must get rid of tenant farming, rid of the socially and politically disinherited group we now have among us by making them feel they have some rights and some responsibility."

KINSTON, N. C.
FREE PRESS
MAY 29 1936

"Judge" Lynch Is Intelligently Discussed

ONE of the most illuminating addresses delivered before the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association in its annual meeting was that of Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames of Atlanta, Ga., executive director of the Association of Southern Women for Prevention of lynching.

Mrs. Ames gave some first hand information gathered from investigations personally conducted of mob out-breaks. Her address was bold and she did not mince words. She tore the mask of hypocrisy from much of the defense all too frequently offered for mob violence.

The Association of which Mrs. Ames is executive director was organized in 1930 by prominent Southern women who resented the oft-repeated claim of mobbists that "lynch law" was necessary in order to protect the virtue of Southern womanhood.

Mrs. Ames told her newspaper hearers very plainly that they were inconsistent in condemning lynching in their editorial columns and playing up such outlawry glamorously on the front pages of their newspapers.

She related several instances in her own experience, among them was an incident in Texas. Mrs. Ames' account as recorded in Editor and Publisher is as follows:

> **"Houston, Texas, papers for two days," she said, "carried long stories and banner heads on the pursuit of a Negro accused of attacking a white child in a town 50 miles distant. Then the story was completely dropped. She investigated and found the clue in an obscure column of the newspaper. It told of bloodhounds racing back and forth across river beds and finally quitting in digust. Mrs. Ames investigated and found a reason. The trail led directly into the middle of the white posse. That was not carried in the newspaper," she said.**

There were several similar stories related.

Mrs. Ames advocated local and state correction of the lynching problem. She discounted the value and virtue of federal legislation saying the pending Costigan bill to make lynching a federal offense would not cope with the situation. On the contrary she predicted that it would probably result in an increase in the disappearance of Negroes and an increase of reported suicides of Negroes, even with the rope of the mobbists about their necks.

Mrs. Ames' address provided a basis for considerable discussion from prominent publishers gathered from all over the South, who applauded her courageous utterance and very properly so.

Daytona Beach. Fla. News
July 3, 1936

THE PRESS STANDS ACCUSED

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames of Atlanta, speaking before the Southern Newspaper Publishers' association meeting this spring in Asheville, accuses the press of the south of fostering the spirit of hatred which results in lynchings.

She says this promotion is done, not in editorials—for on the editorial page, she says, the press is uniformly condemnatory of the mob spirit—but through news stories which employ "language which fairly bristles with expressions calculated to awaken the ever-present fear and hate in the less-privileged members of the white race."

She asserts that newspapers publish with prominent headlines on the front page stories of the tracking down of fugitives by mobs and to the sensational crimes which give rise to such episodes but give little prominence to the orderly administration of justice in similar cases where there is no mob violence. She says a "halo of chivalry" is thus placed around lynchers.

There is nothing sacrosanct about the behavior of the press. As a public servant it stands in the limelight exposed to criticism and the manner in which it does its job is a legitimate subject for public discussion. Therefore, this charge which Mrs. Ames has made merits some serious examination.

A certain part of Mrs. Ames' criticism is due to a fundamental misconception of the function of news reporting. Its purpose is not propaganda, however laudatory the cause. That which is dramatic in the day's happenings is news. That which is the most dramatic is front page news. A lynching is horrible, but it is dramatic. The orderly process of justice is more important, perhaps, but it is—thank heaven—more usual.

At the same time, there are things newspapers can do to make lynchings appear in an unfavorable light in the news columns, for the very reason that the net result of a lynching as an exhibit of savage mob reaction is "unfavorable." A really realistic account of a lynching certainly can not place the lynchers in a favorable light or encourage imitation.

For this reason, The News-Journal and many another southern newspaper has given instructions to the men who handle its news reports that stories and headlines tell the facts about lynchings, where they are available, and as little as possible convey the impression that they are a sort of glorified sports event in which a human being is the quarry. Care is taken not to overemphasize sex crimes which may have incited the mob at the expense of justice to the criminal. Noble efforts of sheriffs and other authorities to restrain the mob are to be described in detail and given due prominence.

It is abhorrent to some that newspapers have to mirror the faults as well as the virtues of society. Much good has been done, however, by unimpassioned, unsentimentalized recording of the evil that man does. Man's, inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn only if the countless thousands are made graphically aware of what is going on.

Dramas Depict Lynch Horrors

Whites Win Prizes Awarded for Propaganda Intended To Reduce Murders

ATLANTA, Set. 3.—Prizes offered last winter by the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching for the best anti-lynching play submitted have been awarded to Walter S. Spearman, of Chapel Hill, N. C., and Miss Ann Seymour, of Strawn, Texas, both whites, according to a statement given out today by Mrs. Jessie Daniel Amos, of this city, director of the association.

Mr. Spearman received $100 for a play entitled "Country Sunday," and Miss Seymour received second prize, $35, for a play entitled "Lawd, Does You Understand."

Mr. Spearman, a native of South Carolina and a graduate of the University of North Carolina, was formerly a reporter on the Charlotte News and is now teaching journalism and studying dramatics at the University of North Carolina. He has written a number of prize-winning plays and belongs to the famous Carolina Playmakers. Miss Seymour is a graduate of Texas State College for Women and is a teacher of English in the schools of Palestine, Texas. This is her second successful effort at play writing, her first having received first prize in a contest sponsored by the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association.

Both the prize-winning plays feature the proneness of mobs to act hastily without waiting to make sure of the guilt of the accused. They will be published by the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and made available to groups desiring to present them.

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PETERSBURG, VA.
PROGRESS INDEX

MAY 20 1936

Two Sides To Lynching Reporting

NEWSPAPERS are accustomed to criticism. Most of them welcome it when it is constructive and points the way to improvement. Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, is the latest to join the ranks of these critics, with a charge made before the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association that their handling of lynching news is conducive to more lynchings.

Editorial writers, she concedes, do their part in the campaign against this crime, but the news writers use "language "that fairly bristles with expressions calculated to awaken the "ever-present fear and hate in the less-privileged members of "the white race." In other words, she believes that a realistic account of a lynching inspires persons in certain circumstances to go and do likewise.

This is typical of the reasoning of some critics. On the other side, it might be observed that a realistic and horrible account of a lynching confirms the resolution of a greater number of persons to do everything in their power to wipe out this evil. If lynchings were not reported in detail, and the reporter's business is not one of expressing opinions, the need for active opposition to lynching might not be as fully realized as it is. Without newspaper accounts, for example, the organization which Mrs. Ames represents might never have been called into existence.

This is a problem on which we would not speak with too much certainty, for it involves psychological elements which cannot be tabulated and weighed precisely; nevertheless Mrs. Ames has not given proper consideration to the other side of the problem.

ASHEVILLE, N. C.
TIMES

MAY 18 1936

SAYS EDITORIAL, NEWS POLICIES ARE CONFLICTING

rs. Ames Discusses Press And Lynching At Publishers' Meet.

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, of Atlanta, executive director of the Association of Southern Women for Prevention of Lynching, told the Southern Newspaper Publishers association here today that "it seems to me the southern press is cultivating the field of public opinion which is now fertile for seeds of communism and fascism."

She said the basic emotions causing war and lynchings were the same, and called on the press to exert itself in news stories to aid in preventing lynchings and spread of propaganda by not suppressing facts, even unintentionally, and by reporting the news truthfully.

"Lynchings are spectacular incidents of the comp [illegible] destruction of law and the courts while the mass rules," Mr. Ames said during her address on the subject: "Can Newspapers Harmonise Their Editorial Policy on Lynching and Their News Stories on Lynchings?"

The speaker said newspapers followed an inconsistent policy in their editorial and news handling of lynchings.

Several publishers and editors joined in the general discussion that followed Mrs. Ames speech, including Tom Wallace, editor of The Louisville Times, Harry Ayers of the Anniston, Ala., Star, and W. T. Anderson, of Macon, Ga.

The general tone of their remarks was in line with Mrs. Ames speech, both Mr. Anderson and Mr. Ayers urging newspaper support of public officials who uphold the law.

Mr. Anderson said it was important for newspapers to support capable and honest sheriffs. Mr. Ayers called attention to the campaign to raise funds for erection of an agricultural building at Tuskeegee institute for negroes at Tuskeegee, Ala., and suggested the cooperation of the newspapers as a fine gesture.

"The editorial writer competes in a losing battle with his news stories," Mrs. Ames remarked. "He is lost to the public, while that public reads on his front page—in language that fairly bristles with expressions calculated to awaken the ever-present fear and hate in the less-privileged members of the white race—a dramatic and inflammatory account of some violation of the white man's code by a 'giant negro'. . . . Whatever the editor may say after this is like the silent fall of dew after a terrific hail storm."

Power In News Columns

"Because some southern women are greatly concerned about lynching, we are on the alert to discover some effective method of approach to the public which will build a new public opinion toward this crime. It is my opinion that in the beginning not one of us thought of the press in any light other than an ally. We read editorials. When one is printed condemning lynching or recognizing our disinterested efforts in applying an educational program against lynching, we feel greatly strengthened for the time being. We are not as a whole over-critical of the press.

"We hasten to express our appreciation for every editor who strengthens our purpose a bit by his unqualified condemnation of lynching. We are grateful for editorial condemnation of our courage and nobility in openly working against lynching. Again I repeat: We are grateful. But we are coming to see that editorials are not getting us far along our road. Naturally believing in the power of the press, we are interested in the dynamo which generates the power. Some of us think the front pages and the news columns are the dynamo, and we would like to reach the men who control this power.

Discusses Problem

"When a story is lacking in spectacular features which earn it headlines on the front page, it is found tucked away somewhere on an inside page, no more conspicuous in type or heading than is given to editorials. But suppression of facts feature these stories and to such an extent that the press is unwittingly developing another alibi for lynching. We have discovered this fairly recently in currens news stories.

"Diversion of the public mind from the savage revenge of the mob by emphasizing the hienousness of the crime committed by the victim of the mob excuses any excess of torture. Men and women see the outraged victim of a 'black brute' their own mothers or sisters, wives or daughters. Anonymous letters, demanding to know 'How would you feel if that had been your daughter or sister?'—have been received too often for us to overlook the effect these news stories have on the minds of men and women.

Stories Stir Feeling

"In describing the victim of an assault, newspapers use such words as 'young, lovely, innocent, devout in her religious life, loving, affectionate; now broken and ruined, a glorious future of proud womanhood destroyed and blasted'. Men are stirred. No one with a drop of 'red blood' in his veins will stand back! If they hesitate, there are women and girls milling around, demanding that they show themselves as heroes, and not yellow cowards.

"Cannibalism of mobs, revolting souvenir collections carried by lynchers, sadistic acts inspired by diseased and poisoned minds—these facts are played down if they are mentioned at all, while justification is given for any extreme measure of cruelty which a maddened mob may devise. 'It was terrible,' one white woman remarked about the mob at Marianna, Florida, 'but nothing that could have been done to the negro would have been too much.'

Policies In Conflict

"In Will Irwin's 'Propaganda and the News', almost every statement he makes about propaganda and war, the place of the press in creating hate and arousing fighting blood, can be paralleled with similar stories of propaganda and lynching—ways of turning on racial hate and fear and arousing the savage in white men. It seems to me that the Southern press has helped to cultivate the field of public opinion which is now fertile for seeds of communism and fascism. Lynchings are spectacular incidents of the complete destruction of law and the courts while the mass rules. Hatred, the essential ingredient for murder and lawlessness, is never completely dormant. Methods of propaganda—or technique, as sociologists call it—for stirring up this hatred have become so much a part of our method of control that unconsciously, because of familiar outlines, newspapers which now seek to change this in their editorial columns print news stories of lynchings which satisfy the state of the public mind; suppress details that reveal the white man as something less than chivalrous; divert attention from his acts of savagery; emphasize and support the emotions of hate and fear; and in other subtle ways feed the doctrine of group superiority, as an attribute to birth, to those of our race who have failed to achieve individual superiority over their negro neighbors."

TARBORO, N. C.
SOUTHERNER

MAY 19 1936

One and the Same

Mrs. Jessie Daniels Ames of Atlanta, Ga., executive secretary of the Association of Southern Women for Prevention of Lynching, told the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association at Asheville that the "basic emotions causing war and lynchings are the same." All must agree that the statement is interesting and some of us will agree that it is true.

In order to admit the truth of the statement, one must first admit that both war and lynchings are the result of emotions. And this calls for some elaboration. As regards war, flowery orators would have us believe that war is a noble thing inspired by a burning desire to see to it that "the name of this great fair land of ours shall not be trampled in the mire", or words to that effect. As regards lynching, the motive is usually laid to "protecting the honor of our good women", or something like that.

Well, these may be the basic causes, but the fact remains that neither wars nor lynching could occur if the causes were kept on a purely intellectual level. There must be emotionalism of the mob variety, and that includes unreasoning hatred, a desire to kill, and an overthrow of calm consideration of consequences in favor of fanatical lack of such consideration. The man who looked forward with greedy anicipation to the time when he would have a chance to stick his ayonet through a German was in no wise experiencing a different emotion from that of the man who looks forward to catching a fleeing Negro and stringing him to a pine tree.

Both are forms of the same thing, and one of the characteristics of that thing is that, at the time, the person so emotionally inspired is convinced that wha he is doing is not only justifiable but also an impelling necessity on his part.

Mrs. Ames, further along in her address to the publishers, urges them to fight lynching on he printed page." And officials of anti-war organizations are making similar appeals to the press to fight war. But if we might be allowed to indulge in a note of pessimism—it will be a hopeless task in respect to both war and lynching so long as the human race is incapable of preventing wild emotions from displacing calm judgment in times of stress.

Raleigh, N. C. Observer
May 19, 1936

PUBLISHERS URGED TO FIGHT LYNCHING

Mrs. Jessie Ames Speaks at Opening Session of Southern Association

Asheville, May 18.—(AP)—With approximately 250 delegates, members of their families and guests attending, the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association opened its 34th annual convention at Grove Park Inn here today.

Mrs. Jessie Daniels Ames, of Atlanta, Ga., executive director of the Association of Southern Women for Prevention of Lynching was the principal speaker at this morning's session, telling the publishers that "it seems to me the Southern press is cultivating the field of public opinion which is now fertile for seeds of Communism and Fascism."

Basic emotions causing war and lynchings are the same, Mrs. Ames declared. She called on the press to exert itself in news stories to aid in preventing lynchings and spread of propaganda. Mrs. Ames did not ask that the facts be suppressed, even unintentionally, but that the news be reported truthfully.

Her topic was "Can Newspapers Harmonize Their Editorial Policy on Lynching and Their News Stories on Lynchings?"

Emanual Levi, of Chicago, retiring president, in his annual report was hopeful that the time "is not far distant when the first Southern pine newsprint mill in the South will be constructed."

The speaker said he was confident that it is chemically feasible and commercially practical to make standard newsprint out of southern pine wood.

[illegible] all over the country owe a debt of gratitude to the publishers who have loyally and faithfully supported this project from the beginning by signing contracts to consume the first newsprint made in the South," he asserted.

At the short afternoon sesison advertising topics were discussed and Herbert Porter of Atlanta, general chairman of the advertising committee, led a discussion on the promotion of daily newspapers.

Other reports at the morning session were by Cranston Williams, of Chattanooga, secretary-manager of the association; Walter C. Johnson of Chattanooga, treasurer; Ted Dealey, of Dallas, chairman of the postal and legislative committee; Tom Wallace, of Louisville, Ky., of the editorial affairs committee; Robert Tate, of Chicago, for the bureau of advertising; and V. C. Garriott, of the Southern School of Printing at Nashville.

Members of the nominating committee, named at the morning session, are: Clark Howell, Jr., of Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution; J. S. Parks, of Fort Smith (Ark.) Times-Record; and James G. Stahlman, of Nashville, (Tenn.) Banner.

This committee will make its report tomorrow morning and the officers for the next fiscal year of the association will be elected. The new officers will assume charge upon the adjournment of the convention Wednesday afternoon.

Greenville, Miss., Democrat Times
May 18, 1936

DIXIE PRESS AID IN PREVENTING OF LYNCHINGS URGED

MRS. JESSIE DANIEL AMES ADDRESSES THE PUBLISHERS

CALLS UPON PRESS

Says Southern Press Is Cultivating the Field for Public Opinion Which Is Now Fertile for Seeds of Communism and Fascism.

[By The Associated Press]

Asheville, N. C., May 18.—Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, told the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association here today that "It seems to me the Southern press is cultivating the field for public opinion which is now fertile for seeds of communism and fascism."

She said the basic emotions causing war and lynchings were the same and called on the press to exert itself in news stories to aid in preventing lynchings and the spread of propaganda by reporting news truthfully.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
NEWS

MAY 19 1936

The Blame Misplaced.

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, yesterday addressed the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association, hereafter to be known as the SNPA, in convention assembled at Asheville. What she seemed to be driving at may be, perhaps, stated in one of her sentences, that—

> "The editorial writer competes in a losing battle with his news stories. He is lost to the public, while that public reads on his front page—in language that fairly bristles with expressions calculated to awaken the ever-present fear and hate in the less-privileged members of the white race—a dramatic and inflammatory account of some violation of the white man's code by a 'giant Negro' . . . Whatever the editor may say after this is like the silent fall of dew after a terrific hail storm."

Not a whit jealous of the front page, which is meant to be bold and noisy and important, we eschew that argument to take issue with the speaker on another score. Like the hail and the dew of her simile, she is all wet. Examine front pages here and there in the South, which is the lynching field, and the racial violence that is given prominence there will be, nine times out of ten, that of the whites against the Negroes—in short, lynchings. A Negro may commit a crime in, say, Louisiana or Mississippi, and unless it is particularly bestial it is of real news value only in its immediate locality. But let the mob track him down and do him in and the story makes page one all the way from Shreveport to Salem, Massachusetts. Usually it will be accompanied by editorial comment on an inside page, where editorial comment belongs.

The Southern newspapers, which Heaven knows have their shortcomings, are not to be charged fairly with sowing the seeds of lynchings. Rather do they endeavor to the best of their ability to put the fear of the Law in the heart of the mob and to exhort the Law itself to take the Law seriously. In this State, for example, which had a lynching last year in Franklin county, the Law has been called by the newspapers every conceivable name short of spineless accomplice, and all to no avail. If the Law could be taunted into doing its plain duty, rest assured that *that* would make the front pages and the editorial columns too.

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.
TELEGRAM

MAY 19 1936

MRS. AMES ERRS

In her address before the Southern Newspaper Publishers at Asheville, Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive director of the Association of Southern Women for Prevention of Lynching, demonstrated two things—first, that she is capable of making a speech, and second, that she knows very little about newspapering. Such statements as, "It seems to me the southern press is cultivating the field of public opinion which is now fertile for seeds of communism and fascism," and ..."suppression of facts features these stories ...to such an extent that the press is unwittingly developing another alibi for lynching," tend to show that Mrs. Ames has been reading between the lines.

If Mrs. Ames knew that one of the cardinal points of The Associated Press, which handles the stories on lynchings published by the vast majority of newspapers in the South, is that of ascertaining the facts and presenting them without fear or favor so long as those facts can be substantiated, then, there would have been no excuse for charging that the facts had been suppressed. While we are not acquainted with the official of the anti-lynching association, we have been forced to place her, temporarily we hope, in that class which is first cousin to those who jump at conclusions without waiting for all the facts.

We have yet to see a southern editor condone the terrible crime of lynching. We admit that we have instituted from time to time reminders that a lack of faith in the courts may have been partially responsible for some of the instances where men decided to take the law into their own hands. But we have agreed in the main with other Southern editors that lynching is barbaric and should not be a product of twentieth century civilization. Hence, we still fail to see how that Mrs. Ames arrives at the conclusion that lynchings are instigated by propaganda in news stories. As for the "seeds of communism and fascism," let either of these elements become known to exist in a community in the southland and watch the deadly fire which the nearest newspaper will heap upon it.

Mrs. Ames seems to obsessed with her subject to be able to reason it out for herself that civilization, even though aided and abetted by stalwart forces, still moves upward very slowly.

Lynchings-1936
Discussion.

Commission on Interracial Cooperation Survey on Lynchings.

5276

FEDERAL ACTION URGED BY INTERRACIAL GROUP

Constitution
3-16-36

Co-operation Commission Issues Results of Five-Year Lynch Study.

Atlanta, Ga.

Coincidental with the week-end lynching of a negro in Georgia, the Commission on Interracial Co-operation yesterday suggested federal action to stop mob violence.

The views of the commission, composed of whites and negroes, were included in a pamphlet containing a study of lynchings in the last five years.

Victim of mob action Saturday was Philip Baker, 35-year-old negro accused of criminally attacking two white women, who was lynched in rural Chattahoochee county. Baker was seized from county officers by a masked and armed band.

"The mob still rides," declared the commission's report, which said 84 persons, mostly negroes, were lynched during the five-year period covered by its study.

The commission alleged 41 per cent of the lynchings were of persons charged with petty offenses or with no crimes.

The commission recommended placing of responsibility on federal and state police, change of venues for the accused and arranging for state or federal prosecutors to share the responsibility for trying lynchers. Stronger jails and "adequate police service" also were asked.

"Though lynching is obviously a crime, violating the federal constitution and the laws of the several states concerning murder, riot, assault and the like, in many communities it is still regarded as an expression of popular justice.

"The federal kidnaping law also has proved inoperative. Lynchers go unpunished because punishment of their crime depends upon the same police officers and court officials whose impotence they demonstrated when they were lynched."

The report, issued by R. B. Eleazer, secretary of the commission, charged that officers sometimes connive at lynchings or even participate in them, that courts rarely indict lynchers and more rarely convict, and that mobs sometimes dominate the court to bring about "legal lynchings."

SPARTANBURG, S. C.
HERALD

MAR 18 1936

Lynching Statistics

The Commission on Interracial Cooperation, headquarters in Atlanta, has issued a booklet, "The Mob Still Rides," which is a review of the lynchings in the United States in 1931-1935. The statistics compiled by the commission are not encouraging and especially to the people of the South.

The commission finds that during the five-year period to which its report relates there were 87 lynchings and that 41 per cent of the persons lynched were either unaccused of crime or else were charged with minor offenses. A summary of the findings of the commission follows:

(1) A larger proportion of the lynchings of this period occurred in the South than ever before, and a larger proportion of the victims were negroes.

(2) Eleven per cent of the mob victims were not accused of any crime; an additional thirty per cent were accused only of minor offenses. Of the other fifty-nine per cent, many were not guilty of the crimes with which they were charged.

(3) Contrray to the general impression that rape is the chief cause of lynching, only eleven per cent of the victims were even accused of this crime. Scarcely one-fourth were accused of rape and attempted rape combined.

(4) Courts rarely indict lynchers, more rarely convict, and almost never impose sentences commensurate with the crime. Indictments have been returned in but one lynching in twelve, and convictions in scarcely one in thirty.

(5) There is evidence that peace officers participated in several lynchings, and connived at many more.

(6) Over nine-tenths of the lynchings occurred in the open country, and a little over four-fifths in counties where the per capita income and taxable wealth were below those of their respective states. Over three-fourths of the threatened lynchings prevented were also in the poorer rural counties.

(7) When a mob does not lynch it sometimes dominates the court, and so brings about a "legal lynching."

(8) Nearly twenty per cent of the persons lynched and threatened by mobs were mental defectives.

(9) The number of lynchings declined from a yearly average of 124 between 1895 and 1905, to seventy between 1905 and 1915, to fifty-three between 1915 and 1925, and to seventeen between 1925 and 1935. The past decade, however, shows more lynchings in the latter half than in the first half—the only decade in which this was true. The number of attempted lynchings also rose during the latter half of the decade.

The optimism of ten years ago is waning; lynchings are not fading naturally from the American scene; the mob still rides.

Inasmuch as the majority of the 84 lynchings enumerated in the report took place in southern states the facts are all the more unpleasant for southerners to consider. The report is accurate and was compiled by an organization that has the respect of the people of both races. Its sole purpose is to promote better relations between the races and to do all in its power to stop the fiendish crime of lynching which is a disgrace to every community in which it occurs.

The facts brought to light by the commission show that many innocent men have been murdered by mobs. Mob law is foe of justice. It shames the community in which it is permitted to lift its head. Even though its victims in some cases were guilty they were not more guilty of crime than every member of the cowardly mob that took their lives without giving them an opportunity to appear before a jury and be given a legal trial.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
WORLD-TELEGRAM

MAR 16 1936

LYNCHINGS GAIN, SURVEY SHOWS

20 Killings in 1935 Reveal "Mob Still Rides," Asserts Commission Report.

By the United Press.

ATLANTA, March 16.—The Commission on Interracial Relations today surveyed the record of "lynch law" during the last forty-five years, and concluded that "the mob still rides." The commission said the twenty lynchings of 1935 marked a serious upward trend in mob violence since 1890.

"The number of lynchings declined from a yearly average of 124 between 1895 and 1905, to seventy between 1905 and 1915, to fifty-three between 1915 and 1925, and seventeen between 1925 and 1935," the report said.

"The past decade, however, shows more lynchings in the latter half than the first half—the only decade in which this was true."

The rule of the mob, however, the report pointed out, increasingly is becoming strictly a Southern phenomenon. Of the eighty-four persons lynched in the last five years, seventy-two were in Southern States and eight in States adjoining Southern States—Maryland, West Virginia, Missouri, Ohio and Kansas.

In listing the 1935 toll of twenty persons lynohed, the report emphasized that it may present an incomplete picture. It does not include, it said, "reported lynchings in Alabama in connection with the Share Croppers' Union, the cotton choppers' strike and the cotton pickers' strike."

"Eleven per cent of the mob victims were not accused of any crime," the report said. "An additional 30 per cent were accused only of minor offenses. Of the other 59 per cent, many were not guilty.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
HERALD-TRIBUNE

MAR 16 1936

South Indicted by Board After Study of Lynching

Report Follows Slaying of Negro by Georgia Mob

ATLANTA, March 15.(AP)—Coincident with the week-end lynching of a Negro in Georgia, the Commission on Interracial Co-operation today suggested Federal action to stop mob violence. The views of the commission, composed of whites and Negroes, were included in a pamphlet containing a study of lynchings in the last five years.

The victim of mob action Saturday was Philip Baker, thirty-five-year-old Negro, accused of criminally attacking two white women. He was lynched in rural Chattahoochee County. Baker was seized from county officers by a masked and armed band.

"The mob still rides," declared the commission's report, which said eighty-four persons, mostly Negroes, were lynched during the five-year period covered by its study.

The South, where most lynchings occurred, was described as lacking in "wealth and culture."

"It is significant that practically all of the counties outside the South with mobs fell below their state averages, while most of those within the South which reached their state averages were in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina and Arkansas—the lowest ranking states in the Union in wealth and culture," the report said.

NEW YORK TIMES

MAR 16 1936

FEDERAL STEP URGED TO STOP LYNCHINGS

Commission on Interracial Co-operation Says Mobs Killed 84 in Last Five Years.

ATLANTA, March 15 (AP).—Federal action to stamp out lynching was suggested today by the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, which declared "the mob still rides."

The commission, composed of Negroes and whites, issued a pamphlet studying mob violence in the last five years, during which it said eighty-four persons, mostly Negroes, were lynched.

The South, where most lynchings occurred, was described as lacking in "wealth and culture."

Fundamental to all means of eradicating "lynch-bent mobs," the commission said, is the educational approach.

The commission alleged that 41 per cent of the lynchings were of persons charged with petty offenses or with no crimes.

The commission recommended placing of responsibility on Federal and State police, change of venues for the accused and arranging for State or Federal prosecutors to share the responsibility for trying lynchers. Stronger jails and "adequate police service" also were asked.

A Significant Study Of The Lynching Record

3-22-36

The Commission on Interracial Cooperation has just published a report summarizing the results of a careful study of all lynchings in the United States in the last five years. The facts cited are all significant, and in some instances startling.

The most astounding fact brought out by this study is that of the 84 persons lynched in the five-year period, nearly half were either unaccused of crime or else were charged only with minor offenses. To be exact, in 41 per cent of the cases the victims either were not only innocent of any crime, but were not even accused of any, or else were charged with offenses of a minor nature. To that record of cruel injustice is added the fact that of the other 59 per cent of mob victims in the last five years, many were found, on investigation, to have been innocent of the crimes with which they were charged.

Highly significant also is the fact that only one-fourth of the victims were accused of actual or attempted assaults upon women. This may surprise many persons, since it is generally thought that this is the chief cause of lynchings. It does not surprise those who have followed the lynching record closely, and who know that this offense, while it accounts for only a fourth of the lynchings, is used more than anything else to keep alive the mob spirit. A further fact brought out in the report is that in a number of these cases the commission's investigators could find no convincing evidence of guilt.

With all else that is to be said against lynching—against its barbarity, against the violence it does to our institutions of law and orderly justice—surely such facts as these should serve to make all people of one mind in condemning the practice. At least everyone can agree that, when nearly half the victims of mobs are either unaccused or charged with only minor offense, and many of the rest are innocent of the crimes of which they are accused, lynching is certainly a very inefficient instrument.

Federal Action Urged In Southern Lynchings

Advertiser

ATLANTA, March 15.—(AP)—Coincident with the weekend lynching of a negro in Georgia, the Commission on Interracial Cooperation today suggested Federal action to stop mob violence.

The views of the commission, composed of whites and negroes, were included in a pamphlet containing a study of lynchings in the last five years.

Victim of mob action Saturday was Philip Baker, 35-year-old negro accused of criminally attacking two white women, who was lynched in rural Chattahoochee County. Baker was seized from county officers by a masked and armed band.

"The mob still rides," declared the Commission's report which said 84 persons, mostly negroes, were lynched during the five-year period covered by its study.

Anti-Lynching Plays Are Awarded Prizes

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, announced yesterday the award of anti-lynching play prizes to a North Carolinian and a Texan.

The first prize of $100, she said, was awarded by the association to Walter S. Spearman, of Chapel Hill, N. C., for a play entitled "Country Sunday." A second prize of $35 was awarded to Miss Ann Seymour, of Strawn, Texas, for her play, "Lawd, Does You Understand?"

Spearman is a native of South Carolina and a graduate of the University of North Carolina. He was formerly a reporter on the Charlotte (N. C.) News, and is now teaching journalism and studying dramatics at the University of North Carolina.

Miss Seymour is a graduate of the Texas State College for Women and is a teacher of English in the Palestine, Texas, schools.

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U.S. ACTION ON CLAUDE NEAL LYNCHING ASKED AS G-MEN TAKE KIDNAPER IN N.Y.

Press Service of the NAACP 12-18-36

N.A.A.C.P. Cites Interstate Kidnaping of Neal, Comparing it to Interstate Kidnaping of New Jersey Trooper, and Demands Attorney General Send Federal Men to Florida

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New York, Dec. 18.- The famed G-men under the personal direction of their chief, J. Edgar Hoover, shot up a New York Apartment house in West 102nd street December 15 to capture Harry Brunette who kidnaped William A. Turnbull, a New Jersey state trooper and carried him across the line into Pennsylvania.

However, no G-men were in sight when Claude Neal, a young Negro, was kidnaped October 26, 1934, by a mob in Brewton, Ala., and carried across the state line to Marianna, Fla., and lynched.

The latest exploit of the government investigators in New York City has caused the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to demand again of Attorney General Homer S. Cummings that the government investigate the two-year-old Neal case and bring the lynchers to justice.

This is the third time the association has demanded action of Attorney General Cummings. Mr. Cummings has replied to the association that the federal kidnaping law did not apply in the Neal case because it was intended to punish kidnapers for "ransom or reward." The attorney general evidently does not believe that kidnaping for the purpose of murder is as serious as kidnaping for ransom.

In the Brunette case in New York, however, the circumstances are exactly the same as in the Neal case. State Trooper Turnbull was kidnaped and taken to Pennsylvania, not for ransom or reward, but with the threat that he would be killed. There was never any mention of ransom. On the other hand, witnesses testified that Brunette continually threatened to kill Turnbull.

Elaborate plans were made by the New Jersey police, New York City police, and the federal men for the capture of Brunette. The federal men have been accused by New York and New Jersey police of going ahead with their plans ahead of the schedule agreed upon by all three. The New York police have accused the federal men of endangering innocent lives with their machine gun fire. All this indicates that the federal government was determined to act against Brunette and capture him at all cost.

On the other hand, in the Claude Neal case and in the Ab Young lynching at Slaydon, Miss., (Young was taken across the Tennessee-Mississippi line) the government has used the excuse that it needed the cooperation and invitation of local authorities.

The letter to Attorney General Cummings signed by Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. secretary, states in part:

"Neal was carried from Alabama to Florida for the purpose of killing him -- Turnbull was carried from New Jersey to Pennsylvania for the purpose of killing him. Neal was actually killed -- the abductors of Turnbull abandoned their intention to kill and left him alive in Pennsylvania.

"Neal was a penniless private citizen -- Turnbull was an officer of the law. Are officers of the law offered the protection of the Department of Justice while private citizens are denied this protection?

"Neal was colored -- Turnbull was white. Are white citizens offered the protection of the Department of Justice while Negroes are denied this protection?

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AND THEY WAITED ALL NIGHT

Down in Owensboro, Kentucky, a few days ago, press reports have it that about fifteen thousand Americans, white men, women and children, took part in what we call a legal lynching which was staged in that city, "just for the fun of it." The high sheriff, an American white woman, being the lawful executioner of Rainey Bethea, turned the affair into what some call a Roman holiday.

Two characters played an important part which made this affair the most disgraceful spectacle of modern times; namely, a white woman as sheriff, and a Negro man to be publicly hanged.

No one was benefited by the event. The lifeless body of a Negro at the end of the rope was, after all, only a dead man who had paid the penalty of a judgment of the state. But the men, women and children who waited all night to witness the gruesome sight, hopping around in fiendish glee, the equal of which could hardly have been found among the most barbaric people of the world, are the ones upon whom the curse of the occasion must fall and rest. It is they who must pay and pay dearly for a thing of this sort. From this scene will go the Dillingers, the "Pretty Boy" Floyds, the Al Capones; in fact, we would be willing to wager all the tea in China, that from this crowd will come the "Public Enemy" number one, two, three, and J. Edgar Hoover can tell the world something about the high cost of crime in America.

A SHAMEFUL EXHIBITION

EVERY American should blush with deepest shame at the sadistic orgy that took place in Owensboro, Ky., on Friday.

Twenty thousand people gathered there, making a carnival of the hanging of a young Negro. From his still warm body, they tore clothing and the death hood to keep as souvenirs.

Such events can still occur in a nation which calls itself "civilized!" What makes the crime the greater was that the young Negro who was hanged had been unlawfully tried—by a jury from which Negroes were excluded.

To express shame at this act is not enough. The American people should be quickened to see that such vicious injustices to the Negro people are wiped out. In Kentucky this week another Negro, John Montjoy, is also to be hanged. There is talk of another fiendish exhibition, public hanging, in which race prejudice, so destructive to the common people, will again be fanned.

The exhibition at Owensboro, Ky., should emphasize to the common people of our country the need for fighting more diligently for the rights of the Negro. Such a fight is inseparable from the white workers' fight for freedom. Not only against these orgies, not only for the Negro's right to be tried by juries on which Negroes sit, but for that complete equality between Negro and white which is necessary to their common progress.

—Daily Worker

TALMADGE SILENT AS USUAL ON GEORGIA LYNCHING

Press Service of the N.A.A.C.P.

New York, September 11.- Gov. Eugene (Chain Gang) Talmadge made no reply to a telegram from the N.A.A.C.P. this week asking him to make good his boast that Georgia could take care of its own affairs without federal aid. The telegram referred to the lynching on September 6 of A. L. McCamy at Dalton, Georgia. The wire, signed by Walter White, follows:

> "In view of your numerous public boasts of your ability and that of state of Georgia to run its affiars without federal aid we ask you to state publicly what you are going to do about the lynching at Dalton on September sixth. Associated Press dispatches clearly indicate that Peace Officers did nothing to protect prisoner and in fact appeared to have connived with the mob. Will Georgia be able to apprehend and punish Dalton lynchers or will it again show to the civilized world that its Governor and Peace Officers are helpless to prevent lynching and must therefore have federal aid to stamp out this crime."

Incidently McCamy was lynched on September 6 and two or three days later Governor Talmadge closed his campaign for a seat in the United States senate with a speech in Dalton, a few hundred feet from where McCamy was lynched. Talmadge said nothing about the lynching or about the four lynchings that have taken place in Georgia in 1936. Talmadge, who has been dubbed "His Chain Gang Excellency" by Secretary Harold L. Ickes, was defeated by more than two to one in his race for the senate, and his whole ticket, from his candidate for governor on down, was defeated.

Georgia White Women Launch New War Against Lynch Evil

Support Of Gov. Eugene Talmadge Assured; Petitions Are Sent Out

Defender

ATLANTA, Ga., Sept. 18—(Special)—While a secret investigation into the brutal lynching Sunday, Sept. 6, of A. L. McCamy, 21 near Dalton, Ga., by an estimated mob of 150 Georgia aristocrats of the rope and faggot, is on foot here, the executive committee of the Women's Missionary Society of the North Georgia Methodist conference last Friday scored the uncivilized event in no uncertain terms.

Sense Degrading Aspects

Sensing the degrading aspects of the lynching and its influence upon the youth of Georgia, the society's spokesman said: "The lynching cannot pass unnoticed and uncondemned. For the fourth time in ten months we are forced by the acts of Georgia citizens to condemn a specific crime of mob murder."

Once more attempting to pull Georgia's reputation from the muck and mire into which it has slipped, these, staunch Georgia women drawn to tears by the actions of their fellow citizens, offer no explanation for the ill deed but trust in God that the evil will be wiped out.

Send Out Petitions

Petitions have been dispatched throughout the state of Georgia by the society urging those who have a spark of patriotism and fair play still surging in their veins to wake up and join the war to save the state.

Gov. Eugene Talmadge assured the society of his full support and pledged that drastic action will follow the conclusion of the secret investigation.

The Protection Of Negro Rights

(From The Chicago Sunday Tribune, September 20, 1936)

At Dalton in Georgia a few weeks ago a young Negro who had been arrested on a charge of attempted rape was lynched. The customary ritual was followed. A crowd of about 150 men stormed the jail, forced the jailer to hand over his keys, took the prisoner from his cell, carried him a few miles from town, and hanged him. Some hours later the sheriff found the body and cut it down.

Defender

All of this was told in a few lines on the inside pages of the newspapers. Nothing has been done by the sheriff at Dalton and nothing by the government of Georgia to punish the perpetrators of this hideous crime. And, in all probability, nothing will be done. Public opinion (except, of course, among the Negroes) in vast areas of the South approves this kind of mob violence, especially when it is directed against Negroes.

9-26-36

The significance of this fact is very great and it is also very plain. Negroes are lynched in the South because Negroes are considered there to have no rights as human beings or citizens which any one need respect. The Negro is tolerated because his labor is needed; if he makes no attemp to rise above the station to which he was born he is not likely to suffer injury, though he knows that at any time, for any real or fancied offense, he may be taken out, whipped, hanged or even burned with impunity.

Chicago Def

Bitter as is the lot of the Negroes in the South (and, to a less extent, in the North as well), it would be vastly worse were it not for the protections which the Constitution throws about them. The amendments added by Republican effort after the Civil War are the charter of Negro rights and, in a sense, of all minority rights in this country. The Supreme court has done much to clarify and preserve these rights.

But what of the future? In the next four years in all probability the man who is elected to the presidency will have the appointment of one or more Supreme court judges. If Mr. Roosevelt is relected, whom is he likely to appoint? Joe Robinson of Arkansas has been prominently mentioned. Pat Harrison of Mississippi is another candidate. There is a considerable probability that Mr. Roosevelt will find his appointees in the solid South which has supported him most consistently and there is a practical certainty that, whomsoever he may name, the new judges will be men who, like Mr. Roosevelt, regard the Constitution as a horse and buggy document full of old-fashioned protections of individual freedom which must be got around in one fashion or another.

We know what the Supreme court as it stands today will do for the Negro. On February 17 of this year the court handed down its now famous decision in the case of Ed Brown, Henry Shields, and Yank Ellington against the state of Mississippi. They were poor, unlettered Negroes who had been suspected, on the flimsiest of evidence, of committing a murder. The only evidence presented against them at their trial in Mississippi was a series of confessions wrung from them by the most brutal torture. Under the eyes of a deputy sheriff, and with his active participation, Ellington was twice strung up by the neck until he was senseless. When he recovered consciousness and still refused to confess he was beaten unmercifully. He still refused to confess, and was again whipped and told the treatment would be repeated until he did admit he had committed the crime. At last he yielded. Similar brutality extorted similar confessions from the other two.

All of these facts were revealed at the trial in Mississippi, but the men were convicted and the conviction was sustained on appeal to the Supreme court of the state. Only when the case reached the United States Supreme court were the fundamental human rights of these unfortunate black men, rights guaranteed them by our Constitution, given any recognition.

Mr. Roosevelt wants to appoint judges who will reshape the Constitution to suit his convenience. He wants to whittle away a little here and there. Even though he himself may not be desirous of depriving the Negroes of any of their hard won rights, that may very well be the effect of the kind of whittling he proposes and certainly his supporters South of the Ohio river would be delighted if it were.

Mr. Roosevelt's NRA was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme court. Under it he had fixed wages for workingmen all over the country. He fixed higher wages for northern than for southern labor. Had his law been sustained, what would be more probable than that some southern successor of his should by law undertake to fix wages of Negroes everywhere lower than that of whites doing identical work? And with a Robinson or a Harrison on the court (Harrison from the same Mississippi which convicted Ellington and affirmed the conviction; Robinson, who made no protest against the recent lynchings in his state (Arkansas), what reason is there to think that the court would not sustain the discrimination?

If Gov. Landon is elected President the new members of the Supreme court will be selected by him, and the Negroes, together with every other minority in the country, can feel confident that the great constitutional guarantees of human rights and the prohibitions against racial and religious discriminations will be preserved. In a very real sense, the voters will select the new judges of their Supreme court in November. There is no more important issue in the campaign than this one.

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CHURCH WOMEN CONDEMN LYNCH BILL INACTION

Defender

Score Legislators For Filibustering, Urge Quick Action

5-30-36

NEW YORK, May 29—A singing condemnation of the opposition by a small minority in the Senate and House of Representatives which has blocked all action on anti-lynching legislation during the current session of Congress was made by the Interracial Conference of Church Women held in the Riverside Church on Friday, May 15.

In a resolution which was unanimously adopted by the 200 delegates from the churches of New York City the conference called on the 4th Congress not to adjourn until it has enacted a federal anti-lynching law.

Speakers on the program were Mrs. Harry Emerson Fosdick of Riverside Church; Mrs. Josephine Pinyon Holmes of the N. Y. State Employment Office; Miss Hazel Orton, Missionary Education Movement and Miss Rhoda E. McCulloch of the Woman's Press. Mrs. MaBelle White Williams was in charge of the closing worship service. Mrs. E. R. Alexander and Miss Caroline B. Chapin presided at the two sessions of the conference. In addition to prominent women from the New York City churches the conference had as guests a number of bishops' wives in attendance at the African Methodist Episcopal Church conference.

Th text of the resolution on the anti-lynching bill is as follows:

The Interracial Conference of Church Women meeting at the Riverside Church in New York City, May 15, 1936, records its condemnation of the brutal and un-Christian practice of lynching and mob violence in the United States.

We view with horror 1935's terrible record of 25 lynchings and 102 narrowly averted ones, the worst record for a decade.

We deplore the already alarming record of 1936, where lynching mobs have numbered six Americans among their victims and where fifteen others have escaped similar fates by uncomfortably close margins.

In view of this growth of the spirit of lawlessness and the dangers inherent in that lawlessness to Americans of all races, creeds and colors, the Interracial Conference of Church Women declares its stand:

1. We condemn most vigorously the tactics of filibustering and delay by means of which a small minority in the Senate and House of Representatives have succeeded in blocking passage by the Congress of federal anti-lynching legislation.

2. We vigorously condemn the act of Senator James F. Byrnes, chairman of the Senate Committee on Audit and Control who, it is reported, has blocked since February consideration of the Van Nuys Resolution for a Sentate investigation of the lynchings of 1935, following the filibuster against the Costigan-Wagner bill. We urge that the President insist that Senator Byrnes cease his opposition and permit a hearing by Audition Control Committee, and that members of the United States Senate force a vote on the Van Nuys Resolution without fail before the Senate adjourns.

3. We condemn the attitude of Hatton W. Sumners of Texas, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, who has blocked even a hearing on any one of the 32 anti-lynching bills which have been pending before the House Judiciary Committee for nearly two years.

3. We urge upon the 74th Congress that it do not adjourn until it has enacted into law the Costigan-Wagner bill in the Senate and its companion bill in the House of Representatives.

5. We make clear that our attitude towards candidates for membership in the Senate and House of Representatives of the Congress will be based upon their action on this legislation and not upon party affiliation.

The secretary of the conference is instructed to forward a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States and to each member of the Senate and House of Representatives, and shall be given to the press.

Third of Men Lynched Are Innocent

Mobs Don't Flourish Where Colored Number Is Large.

MURDER IS CHIEF CAUSE OF CRIME

Murder Rate Higher in Ga. Than in N.Y.

WEST POINT, Miss. (ANP)—One-third of the eighty-five men lynched in America during the past five years were not guilty of the crimes of which they were accused, evidence shows, declared Dr. Arthur Raper, white, professor of sociology at Agnes Scott College, Atlanta, Wednesday.

Dr. Raper made his declaration before more than eighty delegates of the Mississippi Council for the Prevention of Lynching Institute.

Lynchings occur in rural areas and there seems to be a relationship between lynchings and economic conditions, the professor said. He pointed out that a man living in one of the ten most populated counties in the South has one-sixtieth the chance of being lynched that one residing in the 200 least populated counties has.

Twelve Not Accused

Dr. Raper asserted that colored men are less likely to be lynched in so-called Black Belts or where there are many of them on large plantations, than they are in nearby areas where they compete with white men in business and in work.

"There are more colored persons lynched because of murder than any other crime," asserted the speaker. "The next largest group is for misdemeanor offenses. Only sixteen per cent of those lynched were accused of rape and nine per cent of attempted rape. Twelve of the men lynched were accused of no crime whatever.

"To stop lynching there should be some relationship worked out whereby officials in areas where lynchings occur should be made to feel that they are not only responsible to the voters in their district or county, but to the citizens of the entire state and nation."

Dr. Raper censured officials in rural areas, saying that the typical one, should it come to a question of losing votes or allowing a colored man to be lynched, would allow the lynching.

Remedy Is Suggested

He emphasized that in addition to the lynching evil, the South has the highest homicide rate in the world and that in Alabama and Georgia there are more white homicides, according to population, than in New York or Chicago.

"This is due," he stated, "to restrictions we have placed on people. We began the tenant farming plan after the Civil War, especially for the colored group. Today, there are eight white tenant farmers to every five colored tenants.

"To finally eliminate lynchings, we must get rid of tenant farming, rid of the socially and politically disinherited group we now have among us, by making them feel that they have some rights and some responsibility."

Not Sorry for Lynch Threat

Wisconsin Judge Refuses To Apologize

NEW YORK—Judge August C. Hoppmann of the ninth judicial circuit of Wisconsin has written the N.A.A.C.P. that he has no apologies to make for his statement from the bench in a recent case involving a young Negro and a white girl student at the University of Wisconsin as follows: "In many places after what happened you would not have the chance to be brought before a court—you know what I mean by that. All the gods of fate were in your favor."

This statement appeared in a Milwaukee daily paper and was sent to the N.A.A.C.P. The association protested to Judge Hoppmann, stating that his remarks were an encouragement to lynchers.

In the case before him the young Negro man had been charged on the word of a policeman with lustful assault, after being shot near the scene of the alleged crime. However, when the case reached court, the defense produced three witnesses who said they were present when the officers shot the boy. This circumstance prevented the charge from being sustained and the defendant was given a much lighter sentence.

In his remarks from the bench, Judge Hoppmann plainly indicated that he was sorry the orderly processes of the law by means of witnesses and testimony had prevented him from sentencing the defendant on the original charge. His reference to mob vengeance is a plain indication that he regretted that the defendant had had the benefit of a trial.

In reply to the N.A.A.C.P. protest, he wrote: "I was correctly quoted in the case you referred to. I have no apologies to make for the language used. I will use the same language under similar circumstances whether you and your association protests or do not protest. I have not asked for nor do I care for your advice nor the advice of your association in the conducting of the court over which I have the honor of presiding. Any further communication from you will go into the waste-basket without being read."

WHEN G-MEN ACT

Because a white man and woman were flogged by planters' henchmen in Eastern Arkansas the other day, the Department of Justice has sent an investigator down there to find out what he can find out, which ought to be plenty.

At the same time, a few hundred miles away in Texas, a murderous mob was chasing several South Texas police officers with ten Negroes in tow all over that section of the Lone Star State with intent to lynch.

The Department of Justice sent none of its G-men to investigate THAT occurrence. If the ten Negroes had been taken from the "helpless" officers, the Department would still not have acted, for the Attorney General and Mr. J. Edgar Hoover have both declared that they are not concerned about stopping lynching. Their forte is tracking down kidnapers, if the kidnapers have kidnaped a wealthy white person.

This has been the policy of the Department all along under all Administrations. It could do brilliant work against counterfeiters, but could never raise its hand against lynchers and mobsters.

It is true that most of these cases are intrastate affairs and suposedly not under Federal jurisdiction, but mob victims have Federal rights which ARE under Federal jurisdiction. They have the right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness, freedom of speech, press and assembly, the right of trial by jury.

To say that the Federal Government has no right to interfere when the rights its Constitution grants are taken away is to talk nonsense.

"HAD THEY LYNCHED YOU, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED"

Pennsylvania's Negro Legislators Lead Fight Against Judge Atlee.

HARRISBURG, Pa., July 23.—A judge, elected to administer justice, who so far forgot his judicial position as to tell a Negro prisoner that "had they lynched you they would have been justified," is facing impeachment proceedings.

The judge is Benjamin Champneys Atlee, judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the Second Judicial District, composed of the county of Lancaster.

The men who presented the petition asking for Judge Atlee's impeachment are State Representatives Homer L. Brown, of Pittsburgh, and Marshall L. Shepard, of Philadelphia.

The resolution, which these men presented, was passed by the House Monday night, and was placed in the hands of the Judiciary General Committee, Wednesday. Definite action is expected.

"Fortunate For You . . ."

In speaking to the prisoner, 55-year-old deaf Samuel Watson, last week, Judge Atlee said among other things: "It is no credit to the people of Columbia that they allowed you to be here in court today . . .

"It is most unfortunate for you that this offense occurred NORTH of the Mason-Dixon line. No court has to bother with cases of your kind SOUTH of that line."

Inciting to riot?

Encouraging mob violence?

Influencing a jury?

What manner of man is this Judge Atlee, who sits in court in a Hall of Justice in Pennsylvania, and incites members to mob violence?

What manner of man is this Judge Atlee, who has the nerve to tell a prisoner, standing before the bar of justice, that "it is most fortunate for you that this offense occurred North of theh Mason-Dixon line"?

What manner of man is this Judge Atlee who figures that he can say what he did . . . not in Georgia, Alabama or some other Dixie state, but in Pennsylvania . . . and get away with it?

What manner of man is this Judge Atlee, who so far forgets the tenets of that justice which he solemnly swore to uphold, that he can say: "It is no credit to the people of Columbia that they allowed you to be here in court today?

And what manner of man is this Judge Atlee who has the audacity to allow his personal venom and spleen to so over-run his judicial poise that he is quoted as saying: "Had they lynched you, they would have been justified"?

Thank God For These Men

Thank God for the presence of two Negroes in the State Legislature at Harrisburg. Thank God for a Democratic party wave which swept into office men of the calibre of Marshall L. Shepard and Homer S. Brown.

Thank God for these "watchdogs" of the race in Pennsylvania who discovered Judge Atlee and then proceeded in the prescribed manner, to take the proper action against him.

Their petition in detail, as presented to the Speaker and members of the House of Representatives Monday night follows:

The Petition of Marshall L. Shepard and Homer S. Brown respectfully represents:

That your petitioners are citizens residents and taxpayers of the City of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Counties of Philadelphia, respectively, and State of Pennsylvania.

That Benjamin Champneys Atlee is a judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the Second Judicial District, composed of the County of Lancaster, having been appointed to said office November 6, 1930, and elected to a full term of ten years at the municipal election in the year 1931, his elected term having commenced on the first Monday of January 1932.

That while serving as a judge of the Court of Comon Pleas of the Second Judicial District, the said Benjain Champneys Atlee did knowingly and wilfully commit and was guilty of misdemeanor in office, to wit:

That on or about July 10, 1936, it is alleged the said Benjamin Champneys Atlee, while acting in his capacity as Judge of said District, made the following remarks in passing sentence on a prisoner in his court:

"This is one of the most despicable offenses ever brought before the local court. It is no credit to the people of Columbia that they allowed you to be here in court today.

"Had they lynched you they would have been justified. I say that although I am sitting here to administer justice. It is most fortunate for you that this offense occurred North of the Mason-Dixon line. No court has to bother with cases of your kind South of that line."

That said remarks were in violation of the prisoner's constitutional rights and outside of the scope of the judicial duties of said Judge. That said remarks are in direct disregard of the laws of this Commonwealth, the same being well known to said Judge.

WHEREFORE your petitioners pray your honorable body to authorize a proper committee to inquire into and concerning the official conduct of the said Benjamin Champneys Atlee and touching his conduct in respect to the matters and things in the foregoing petition set forth, and especially to inquire whether the said Benjamin Champneys Atlee has been guilty of an impeachable offense, and to report to the House of Representatives the conclusion of the committee in respect thereto, with appropriate recomendations.

(Signed)

MARSHALL L. SHEPARD.

HOMER S. BROWN.

July 13. 1936

PHILLY LEADERS JOIN FORCES IN FIGHT AGAINST JUDGE ATLEE

PHILADELPHIA, July 23.—Civic leaders of this city rallied quickly to organize support for the demand for the impeachment of Judge Benjamin C. Atlee, presiding judge of Lancaster county, for his open incitement to mob violence in the case of Samuel Watson.

The petition for Atlee's impeachment has been signed by the five colored members of the legislature: Hobson R. Reynolds, Walker K. Jackson, Richard C. Cooper, the Rev. Marshall L. Shepard and Homer C. Brown.

A message, asking that all ministers and organization leaders in this city support the fight for impeachment, was sent to all meeting places and churches by Arthur Huff Fauset, chairman of the Philadelphia Negro Congress and principal of the Singerly school.

N.A.A.C.P. ATTACKS UNFAIR REMARKS

NEW YORK, July 23—Strong protests have been sent by Mayor F. H. LaGaurdia and Chief City Magistrate Jacob Gould Schurman upon the remark about lynching alleged to have been made July 15 by Magistrate James A. Blanchfield sitting in Brooklyn. The protest was sent by the N. A. A. C. P.

On July 15, two 19-year-old colored boys were brought before Magistrate Blanchfield charged with annoyging two white girls. The magistrate is alleged to have said to them:

"What would happen to you in Georgia for doing such a thing?"

The boys were said to have replied that they would be lynched in Georgia, whereupon the magistrate is said to have told them they would not be lynched in New York, but that he would give them two days in jail to think it over.

In its letter of protest the association said "This association believes this language to be improper, inflammatory and harmful to tolerance and peace between the races. We ask that Magistrate Blanchfield be rebuked and warned that his oath of office does not permit him to intimidate prisoners or to talk of lynching from his bench.'

Lynchings-1936
Discussion

Negro Press, Northern.

5287

Graves of Alabama

When a southern governor calls out state troops and they successfully defend Negro prisoners against a mob, the rule of Judge Lynch is toppling. That happened in Alabama this week. Most significant of all, the men arrested were charged with rape.

Call
4-3-36

In the past, an entirely unwholesome attitude has prevailed whenever Negroes were arrested in southern states. The charge has been all the evidence whites needed to believe them guilty. At the same time Negroes were so sure of the state's deliberate injustice that for them every accused was innocent. The truth was always the same—only the evidence could determine guilt or innocence.

Kansas City

Gov. Bibb Graves of Alabama is adding to the prestige of the law. Alabama is the seat of the Scottsboro cases, a judicial lynching if ever there was one. The calling out of the troops cannot guarantee the integrity of the courts in this new case of alleged rape. But it does bring order, it does provide time for the formal procedure, it does make possible a court hearing. In other words the first step has been taken toward the ideal.

The name of Bibb Graves is carved in the stone over the entrance to Alabama's state school for higher learning among Negroes. At this rate, it will honor one well beloved for all-round good government, and not be simply a tribute to the executive who made possible the building.

ANOTHER SCOTTSBORO?

Chronicle 4-4-36
Boston, Mass.

WORD comes from Alabama that four colored boys have been arrested on a charge of attacking and murdering a young white girl and have been thrown into the same jail which houses the unfortunate but wholly innocent Scottsboro boys.

We are not inclined to accept the story as released by the Associated Press, for the reason that in another week colored organizations (such as the N. A. A. C. P.) and news agencies will have unearthed the true details of the case, which invariably show it to be just another frame-up of some poor Negroes who cannot help themselves. Every time that a Southern white man commits a crime he looks for a colored person to hang it on. — every time a Southern white woman is outraged by her own kind, she or her menfolk look for a colored man to take the shame away from them. Then the inhuman mongrel pack is let loose never to call a halt until murder most foul has been perpetrated.

We cannot imagine that men and boys in the South hold life so cheap that they are willing to sacrifice it for the sake of having what must be an unpleasant relationship with women belonging to a group whom they must hate. And so we decline to believe this perrennial cry of the Southern whites that colored youths and men are attacking their women.

LINT SHAW'S FAMILY ALSO THREATENED

Call

Slaying in Georgia Most Horrible Evidence of Violence

5-8-36

By Robert M. Ratcliffe

Kansas City

COLBERT, Ga. — The wife of Lint Shaw and their children huddled together in a little room of the Shaw home at midnight Monday, April 2[illegible], and listened in sorrow as a mob of approximately 50 white persons riddled with bullets the body of the husband and father for the alleged attack on a girl near here April 10.

Lint Shaw, the 45-year-old farmer, was shot to death within hearing distance of his own home and in the vicinity of the alleged attack.

Mrs. George Shaw, a brown skinned woman with coal black hair and Indian features, who speaks only when spoken to, said the automobiles carrying the mob began passing their home as early as 11:30 o'clock Monday night.

About 20 minutes later she said she heard shots. Bursts of gunfire were heard at intervals until 1:30 Tuesday morning, the mother of the 11 children said.

Colored persons here who dared to talk of the lynching said Shaw was tied about the waist with a plow line and then heaved high by a tree limb. While the limber body dangled in the air the white mobsters fired their deadly bullets into the helpless farmer.

Mother Deserts Home

Monday afternoon Mrs. Shaw had moved her family and a small portion of her furniture to the home of her brother, Willie Hill, a farmer of North Colbert.

Although no attempts were made Monday night to force Mrs. Shaw and her children from their home, the mother stated that they had been constantly annoyed since the arrest of her husband.

"Grown white folks would come by and tell my children that they had better get out. They even said they were going to kill all of us," Mrs. Shaw said.

Mrs. Shaw's brother, also a farmer, is in ill health. He has been sick approximately 10 years and has undergone several operations.

There were several people living in the Hill home before the Shaws were invited to move in.

The home is a typical farm house, but is hardly large enough for a family as large as Mrs. Shaw's.

Asked what she planned doing since the death of her husband, the shy Mrs. Shaw said. "I don't know." We've got to do the best we can."

Was Share-cropper

Lint Shaw was a share-cropper and so is Mrs. Shaw's brother. Most of the Shaw children are able to work and are expected to be given work on their uncle's farm.

The children are: Leonard, 20; Wilburn, 18; Lois, 17; Alfee, 14; Mabel, 13; Sugar Lee, 11; Emma, 9; Willie, 7; Luther, 5; Georgia Mae, 3; and Reba, 15 months.

Leonard and Wilburn went to North Colbert Tuesday morning, April 28, to live with their uncle, but the mother and other members of the family did not move until late Tuesday, April 28.

Tuesday afternoon, April 28, white motorists halted before the scene of the death of Lint Shaw. They viewed the tall pine tree from which his body dangled for several hours Tuesday morning. There was paper scattered about the trees as though the mobsters had brought along sandwiches for the occasion.

Less than two hundred yards away in an almost deserted spot stands the farm house, previously occupied by the Shaws.

Shaw was taken from the Royston jail and brought to the spot where two white girls "screamed" and there he was hanged and shot to death.

"There were so many shots we couldn't count them," Mrs. Shaw said. She said the same thing about the number of automobiles passing their home.

Did Not Claim Body

Mrs. Shaw said he could tell by the yells and shouts from the passengers of the passing cars that her husband was being carried to his death.

She knew that Lint was to be brought from Atlanta Monday where he had been nursing gun wounds at Grady hospital. And she knew that her husband was scheduled to go on trial Monday for the alleged attack.

So, Monday night when so many cars passed, so many horns tooted and so many guns were fired, Mrs. Shaw knew her husband was the victim.

Not since the night of April 10 when Lint Shaw was taken from home by Colbert Officers had Mrs. Shaw seen him. She said she was afraid to go on the scene of the lynching and look at his body.

After sunrise Monday, several convicts rode to the pine tree, got the body, put it in a woden box for burial.

Shaw Denies Attack

At Grady hospital several days ago, Mr. Shaw talked to me. He said:

"I was on the floor in front of the fire when I heard someone holler. I told my children to keep quiet so we could hear.

"I had a headache and was resting. One of my children had covered me with an overcoat.

"When I heard the noise which sounded as though the voice of a screaming person, my oldest daughter was stepping across my legs to get closer to the fire.

"I got up and went to the door. The screaming was a good half mile down the road from our house.

"I borrowed my son's jumper after he came home. I went out to the porch. Soon some cars drove up and I got in with the folks and went with them to see if I could be of any help.

"At the jail, the girl said I was the man who choked her.

"They locked me up, but never did search me. I had a small knife in my pocket.

"A few minutes later they said they were going to carry me to a big jail.

"I don't remember what happened after that. I must have been crazy. They said I tried to stab two officers who were riding in the front seat of the car which was taking me to jail."

A mob at Danielsville, Ga., attempted to kill Lint Shaw the night of the alleged attack. While moving him from the little red one-room jail at Colbert to Danielsville, a gang of white persons at Danielsville formed a mob with intent to slay Mr. Shaw.

During the ride from Colbert to Danielsville, officers said they were forced to shoot Shaw three times because he stabbed them. One of the officers was reported in serious condition.

Judge B. T. Moseley, white-haired veteran of the Northern Superior court district, left a sick bed at Danielsville to make a dramatic appeal to the mob to "stop violating the law by breaking into the jail."

He authorized Sheriff T. V. Henley to deputize 100 citizens to preserve order and then called for the National Guard which hastened to the scene from storm-strickened Gainesville.

Because of Shaw's serious condition he was rushed to Atlanta and admitted to Grady hospital.

He remained at Grady under guard through to Sunday at which time he was transferred to Fulton County Tower here.

"LYNCH HIM!"

Chronicle
5/6/36
Boston
Mass.

"LET us at him! Lynch him!" This cry was sounded from hundreds of throats a few days ago, not in Georgia or Alabama or Florida or Mississippi, but right here in New England—state of Maine. The object of vengeance was a white man who had confessed to the attack and murder of two litle girls.

We feel that that mad man deserves to pay for his heinous crime but only under due process of law. We do not here propose to go into the merits and demerits of capital punishment. But we must take notice at the attempt on the part of citizens of New England to take the law into their own hands. The police stopped them it is true, but will they stop them the next time and would they have stopped them had the would-be victim been a Negro? These are the questions we must ask ourselves, because in the final analysis, the growing tendency toward mob rule in New England will eventually find its outlet against colored citizens. We cannot feel any more secure in Boston than we can in Georgia. A howling mob, overpowered officers, a bullet-ridden black corpse left hanging from a tree and then a mass of blanket investigation will end up with a verdict of "death at the hands of persons unknown."

The only security for any Negro in any part of the United States is a Federal Anti-Lynching Law. The "G" men are lauded as always getting their men and so we must make lynching the "G" men's business. Every single colored man and woman in the country should immediately get behind the efforts being made by Congressmen, the N. A. A. C. P. and other organizations who are striving to force an anti-lynch bill through Congress. Negroes who feel so secure outside of the "lynch belt" should read carefully the stories of the Maine mob and their talk of vigilantes, rope and faggot.

"20th CENTURY CIVILIZATION"

Age
5/23/36
New York

WILLIAM WALES, 60, and his sister, Cora, 62, were lynched down in Gordonsville, Virginia, Saturday. News reports of the incident do not record it as such, of course, but read the details and then judge for yourself.

Accused of having threatened an elderly white woman with a gun, Wales is said to have shot and killed a sheriff and wounded a state patrolman early Saturday when they sought to arrest him. Fleeing to his home, he and his sister barricaded themselves in their house and for six hours held at bay a mob of 5,000 armed officers and citizens. Five of the besiegers were wounded before the couple, driven from their home when their house was set afire, were shot down.

After the man and his sister were shot down, however, the story goes on, the mob HACKED THE BODIES TO PIECES AND CARRIED AWAY PARTS OF THEM AS SOUVENIRS. A procedure quite appropriate to and in keeping with the customs of lynching, but what a reflection on this so-called "advanced civilization" of the 20th century.

Since the accused is now dead, the question of his guilt will remain unanswered. But guilty or not guilty, the manner of his execution will remain another large blot on the records of American "justice." It would be hard to find an example of revolting bestiality equal to that exhibited by the Virginia mob, even in the history of the most primitive peoples.

Although his death is recorded as that of an outlaw, Wales should be remembered also as an unfortunate victim of a lamentably vicious scheme of social justice. So often has the charge which was made against him molesting a white woman, been the forerunner of a lynching, that Wales' action in seeking to escape such a fate becomes well nigh understandable.

There now lies before Congress a law which should empower the federal government to take action against lynching. For too long, now has this bill been bandied back and forth by our lawmakers while the list of victims of this most outrageous evil rises higher and higher. Had the law been in operation, Wales, with the fear of lynching thus abated, might have seen fit to submit to arrest with some assurance of being given a chance to prove his innocence.

On the other hand, Southern mobs, emboldened by the inactivity of Congress on the Wagner-Costigan Anti-Lynching Bill, will probably roll up an all-time high for lynchings this year.

Speaking in Newark last Friday night, Senator W. Warren Barbour of New Jersey declared that the inaction of Congress is a "go-ahead" signal to mobs bent on taking the law in their own hands. Indirectly referring to Senator Borah's opposition to the bill on "constitutional" grounds, Senator Barbour said:

> **"It is no answer to the allegations of unconstitutionality in the bills to let them lie in committees gathering dust. They ought to be given immediate consideration and if the committees cannot re-shape them to remove possible constitutional doubts, let them report the bills to the Senate and House for general discussion and action.**
>
> **"The longer that Congress shilly-shallies over these measures, the less respect the lynching mobs will have for law and order. Right now, the mobs are taking the law in their own hands, which is flagrantly unconstitutional."**

Meanwhile, the day fast approaches for Congress to adjourn and innocent Negroes are burned, lynched and their bodies hacked to pieces. Civilization, bah!

Lynchings-1936
Discussions

Negro Press, Southern.

5297

Mob Law Prevails At Last

Journal and Guide
7-25-36
Norfolk, Va.

LAST week the newspapers carried the inspiring story of aged Judge **BERRY MOSELEY'S** conquest of a Georgia mob, intent upon lynching a man accused of a serious crime.

The jurist arose from a sick bed to confront the mob. Using legal strategy he proclaimed: "I declare you all deputized as officers," adding, "I recognize most of you here." He had just told them to "stop breaking the law by trying to break into the jail." The mob dispersed.

A week later, however, the mob returned to the attack upon another jail in which the accused had been confined—and got their man. They lynched him in the most barbarous fashion.

Now, this question arises: Did Georgia do its full duty in safeguarding the prisoner and upholding the majesty of the law after the first flurry of passion had subsided?

Another question also presents itself. If there was a federal anti-lynching law carrying the provisions of the Costigan-Wagner bill would the Georgia county in which the lynching occurred have abandoned the prisoner to the mob?

There is no doubt that the accused man would have got a quick, decisive trial. And, considering his station in life and his environment, he had one chance in one thousand to escape the full penalty of the law. The weight of accusation in itself was enough to send him to the gallows or the electric chair—that is he would have had one chance in one thousand to prove his innocence if he was innocent.

In the light of this case, and of all previous lynchings is there anything in the administration of state laws that will insure an accused man this chance when mob law wants to have its way?

TAKE LYNCHING OUT OF POLITICS

Afro-American Presbyterian
11-28-36
Charlotte, N.C.

By Dr. Kelly Miller

Lynching is a moral malady and the remedy must be of the same nature as the disease. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has kept the cause of lynching to the front since the days of the lamented Dyer anti-lynching bill. With energy and courage worthy of all praise, this militant organization pushed the measure halfway through Congress. A Republican administration was then in power by a large marginal majority in both Houses of Congress. Naturally enough, the chief appeal was made through the dominant party which was held responsible for legislation. The "Grand Old Party" played a mean game of politics with the Negro's hopes and expectations. On the morning of the day that the fate of the Dyer anti-lynching Bill hung in the balance in the United States Senate I called up Senator Borah and asked him if there was any hope for the pending measure. He responded that the bill had not a ghost of a chance and never had had, and that the leaders were playing politics with the Negro. Lamentable to relate, the outcome of the proceedings of that day justified Senator Borah's assertion. The genuineness and sincerity of Congressman Dyer in proposing and advocating this bill is not to be questioned, but the measure had never been approved by the party caucus or adopted on the agenda of the administration. Indeed no administration has ever placed a lynching bill on its "must" list.

As President of the Alumni Association of Howard University, I invited President Taft to speak before that body on the subject of lynching. It was my privilege to introduce him to a magnificent audience to whom he delivered a sermonic address on the evils of lynching, but he never put the resources of his administration behind any effective measure to put an end to the evil which he reprobated. President Theodore Roosevelt, in his message to Congress, dilated upon the evils of lynching—merely that and nothing more.

When the Democrats gained control of the government, the N. A. A. C. P., naturally enough, turned to leading Democrats for support of the measure which it had so deeply at heart. This was but sensible political strategy. Leading Democrats espoused the anti-lynching legislation as honestly and as ardently as ever did their Republican prototypes. No one doubts the genuineness and sincerity of the Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynching Bill, but they can not command the undivided support of the party any more than Congressman Dyer could in his day. No one will doubt that President Roosevelt is as deeply concerned over the evils of lynching as was President Hoover, his Republican predecessor. But neither President was willing to throw the full weight of his administration behind it.

The fact is that any anti-lynching bill which infuriates the South will be defeated by that section, which ever party may be in national majority. It was the South which defeated the Costigan-Wagner Bill under the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. According to the rules of the Senate, no bill can pass that body which evokes the violent and avowed opposition of any determined group of States. Even if such a bill were passed with the violent and avowed opposition of the South it could not be enforced. The fugitive slave law could not be enforced in the North against the stubborn protest of the Puritan conscience. The 14th and 15th amendments proved nugatory in the North because it ran against the determined opposition of that powerful group of States.

A Federal law to cope with the evils of lynching is demanded by every consideration of patriotism and humanity. There is not a right-minded person in America who will not agree to this proposition. But at the same time, no practical remedy is in sight so long as the proposal rests upon partisan and sectional support. It is but the part of wisdom for the colored people, who bear the brunt of lynching, to appeal to the conscience of the nation, without regard to party or section, to put an end to this national iniquity. There is not a single statesman or leading politician in the South today who advocates or even excuses the barbarity of lynching. The generation of lynching advocates or apologists died with the passing of Tillman, Vardaman, Heflin and Blease. The fact that the Southern white women have become the outspoken advocates of some feasible national law to put an end to lynching is the most hopeful sign that some effective Constitutional measure can be devised and enacted into law. They can render the nation no greater service than this. The cause is too sacred to be involved in the miserable tangle of partisan politics

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"ANY NIGGER WILL DO"

Palmetto Leader
7-18-36
Columbia, S.C.

A mob of cowards set out to defy the laws of their State and God. They were bent on lynching a colored man accused of inflicting a wound on a white man. This occured in Dorchester County. Before the 5 or 6 car loads of mobsters reached the jail the Sheriff had taken his prisoner away. The mob was allowed to search but could not find the man. One fellow of the mob however, showing the true spirit of such fellows yelled out, "any nigger wil do." What cared he about justice? There was no such in his whole being—that's a strange idea to mobs anyhow.

The innocent or guilty will satiate their sadistic spirit. And yet there are those who would temporize with such scum. Orderly processes of the Court mean nothing to them—unless perhaps, one finds himself jerked up before a Court for some crime. Oh, then he wants a fair hearing. Race hatred and intolerance are mean things. But this is the sum total of the efforts of two men now campaigning for the high office of U. S. Senator. No doubt some member of that mob had recently listened to their rabid litterances against the Negro, Dorchester County was saved a needless disgrace by her sensible and honest law officers. Even though they had to play hide and seek.

WHITE MINISTERS TO PROBE RECENT DALTON LYNCHING

Atlanta World 9-13-36

DALTON, Ga.—(SNS)— White ministers of this city, which recently [illegible] the lynching of A. L. [illegible] for the alleged attack of a white woman, united Friday for a "rigid investigation" of the affair.

The resolution signed by the ministers termed the lynching "a disgrace in which the entire [illegible] necessarily shares because a company of lawless men flouted the peace and dignity of the commonwealth and trampled upon the sovereignty of ordered government." It further called upon 'right thinking citizens to join with us in hot censure' and asked for 'relentless prosecution' by law enforcing agencies.

Ministers signing the resolution were: Methodist ministers, E. D. Carlock, W. P. Rowe, A. M. Pierce and L. N. Twiggs; Presbyterian S. Wilkes Dendy; and J. L. Clegg, Baptist.

Catholics And The Anti-Lynching Bill

From the Interracial Review, September 1936

In our leading editorial in the July issue of the *Interracial Review* we cited the first revelations of the infamous activities of the Black Legion and pointed out that lynching and other mob outrages must be eradicated from American life. Last month we cited the killing of Charles Poole, the Catholic, by the same organization and pointed out that this crime had its origin in the horrible example of the lynching of Negroes with impunity. In both editorials we emphasized that all minority groups, Catholics, Negroes and Jews should be foremost in the fight to eradicate mob violence of every description.

Comes now additional evidence to substantiate our previous contention. Last week the entire nation was shocked by the spectacle of 15,000 people gathered from many miles to witness the public hanging of a Negro murderer in Owensboro, Kentucky. Here, the hanging of a human being took on all the color of a public sports event amidst the clamor of hot-dog and soda-pop vendors. This spectacle was of the same stuff that motivates mob murder and lynching. How far removed are the impulses that prompted the gathering of this vast cadaverous crowd, from those which drew thousands to witness the spectacle of early Christians being thrown to the lions in pagan Rome, it is not difficult to estimate.

Certain it is that the stimulus and example of unpunished lynching is responsible for all the grim happenings of the last few months.

In regard to the Catholic contribution to the solution of these problems, we have been immeasurably encouraged by the outstandingly forthright editorial of last week's America, which we reprint in this issue, as well as by the increasing support of the Catholic press in general. The interest of the Catholic press is most gratifying in view of the sentiments expressed on another page by Walter White to the effect that herein is a distinct opportunity for public service on the part of the Catholics of America.

The Interracial Review can sum up its present position in no better way than by calling upon the Catholic leaders of America to redouble their efforts in arousing popular Catholic sentiment in support of the enactment of an adequate Federal anti-lynching bill by the next Congress. Again the Catholic Press has pointed the way and there is now every reason why Catholic organizations and Catholic leaders should accept this new mandate wholeheartedly.

Lynchings-1936
Discussion.

Negro Press, Southern.

5298

LYNCHINGS OF LAST YEAR

Varied comments have been made on the number of lynchings of last year, the figures of which were compiled and sent out by Tuskegee Institute. These reports, year by year, have done much in calling attention of the people to the savagery of the lynchers. There is a sense of satisfaction in noting that the number of victims has greatly decreased. The excuse has been given that lynching is resorted to because of the nameless act of the accused. This excuse is a fallacy. From reports only two per cent. of those lynched are charged with this offense. There is an increasing sentiment against this form of lawlessness which is being confined mostly to one section of the country. Some of the states of this section were free of the stigma during the past year. It is pleasing to note the expressed gratification of the Charleston News and Courier, because South Carolina had a clean record. This paper not only feels elated over the record made, but took occasion to abhor the practice and castigate the perpetrators. The editorial states:

> In South Carolina last year there was no lynching. Indeed, lynching has almost ceased in this state. If the practice be related to the proportion of Negroes to whites in the population, South Carolina's record in respect of it is cleaner than that of any other Southern states—cleaner than that of some of the Northern states along the Mason and Dixon line and the Ohio river. For lynching is no excuse, no defense. In any, in all, circumstances it is murder simple, naked and always cowardly murder. No other name fits it. Lynching is a people's confession of savagery. It is their proclamation to the world that they are without capacity to govern by law.

THE SHELL-JACKSON CASE

Planet 1-11-36
Richmond, Va.

It has been consistently held bad newspaper etiquette to discuss a case while in the process of final adjudication by the courts. The RICHMOND PLANET has scrupulously observed this etiquette and would have remained silent in the case of John Shell and Joe Jackson until final judgment had been entered by the courts and the chief executive of the State of Virginia had it not been for the unprecedented action of Governor Peery in lecturing the attorney for the condemned men on the manner in which he has conducted the defense. The decision to break this silence was also prompted by an editorial on the case appearing in the Fredericksburg Free Lance Star issue of January 6th, which good judgment, we feel, prohibits reprinting because of the legal hazards invited in so doing.

This newspaper has no sympathy for killers regardless of whom are the victims. It is in favor of stern and swift penalties for the takers of human life when orderly processes of the law have been observed. In the instant case, however, the governor and the editor of the Fredericksburg Free Lance Star have undoubtedly missed the issue. In making charges of dilatory tactics and scolding counsel for the men, they have apparently overlooked the legal maneuvers of the lawyers defending Richard Bruno Hauptmann and Edith Maxwell. These observations have no bearing, however, on the Shell-Jackson cases.

Governor Peery and the suspicious Fredericksburg editor naturally have no patience with the law's delay, when only the lives and rights of Negroes are involved. They apparently fail to realize that great issues cannot be abandoned because someone gets peeved. Personal attacks upon a lawyer and the impugning of his motives should not deter the lawyer in the least from rendering the best services of which he is capable in order to vindicate the principle for which he is fighting. Intimidation, abuse and speed have sent many innocent men to unjustified fates.

In order that the issue involved in the cases as construed by those directing and contributing to the defense of the condemned men, may be made clear, we are reprinting an editorial which appeared in the RICHMOND PLANET issue July 6, 1935:

"Let no one mistake the issue. The effort to secure a new trial for Shell and Jackson the two Negroes convicted of the murder of Mr. and Mrs. Coleman in Spottsylvania County and now confined in the death cell in the Virginia Penitentiary, is not inspired by any desire to cloak crime or to enable criminals to escape punishment. It is a protest against the type of trial the accused men were given.

We repeat what was said in an editorial published in this paper of May 25th, as follows:

"Virginia's reputation for orderly and dignified administration of justice was not enhanced by the speed of the trial, the four-minute death verdict, the attack on the manacled prisoners and the conduct of spectators both in the court and on the green."

The RICHMOND PLANET also questions the propriety of the judge, who is a distant relative of the murdered pair, sitting in the trial. His reported statement in sentencing the accused that "Death is a light sentence for such heinous murders" is difficult to reconcile with the theory that the accused were given a fair trial.

It is the inevitable conclusion, that in view of these facts and in order that a suspicion will not be created that Virginia tolerates lynch trials, the accused should be granted new trials held in another jurisdiction where they can be adequately represented by counsel and where their legal rights can be safeguarded. Virginia owes this to herself in order to maintain the reputation she made in the trial of the cases of George Crawford and Philip Jones. The ultimate fate of Shell and Jackson is of inferior dignity to the maintenance of the good reputation of Virginia for justice and fairness even under extreme provocation. This is the issue."

The RICHMOND PLANET cannot tolerate lynchings, lynch trials or any compromise contrived through legal procedure to appease the fury of lynchers and prevent them from carrying out their lawless designs. This is the issue in the Shell-Jackson cases. The Planet stands squarely behind the efforts of the defense to test the validity of the trial accorded these men.

Southern Governors State Opposition To Lynching

NEW YORK.—(C)—Two more governors of Southern states have sent direct to Calvin's Newspaper Service a copy of their replies to Dr. James E. Shepard, college president of Durham, N. C., who wrote fourteen governors recently urging that they take a strong stand against lynching.

Governor J. C. B. Ehringhaus of North Carolina wrote Dr. Shepard under date of Dec. 23, last: "I appreciate your good wishes and approbation. I shall try in the future as in the past, to do all possible to better the condition and opportunity of each and all of our citizens."

Ernie Maddox, private secretary to Governor J. M. Futrell of Arkansas, sent a copy of the governor's letter [illegible] Dr. Shepard, under date of December 19th, "In reply thereto, I will say that I am opposed to the lynching of any human being." This makes the third governor to reply to the Calvin's query on his reaction to Dr. Shepard's letter, the first being Governor George C. Perry of Virginia.

Senator Borah, Democrat

We are waiting patiently for some of our black Republican brethren to come to the fore supporting Senator Borah for the presidential nomination on the Republican ticket. Senator Borah has said open and above board that he is opposed to the passage of anti-lynching legislation, and that he stands for the Constitution and state rights enunciated in that document.

Black Dispatch

Friend Borah agrees that something should be done about the crime of lynching, but he argues that it cannot be done within the sacred precincts of existing constitutionality. In other words, if we had a constitution which granted such authority Borah would be willing to use that power.

2-15-36

Such men as Borah are the best reasons we know of one could offer for changing or amending the Constitution of the United States. There is nothing more important to a citizen than life and if the present fundamental document (according to Borah) does not guarantee life, we had better re-write our operating charter.

Okla City Okla

There is no need of making a fetish of a piece of paper. Mortal men wrote the constitution and if they did not put enough into the thing to preserve all of the rights of citizens, which is the best for us to lose, the piece of paper or the right?

Life, liberty and property. Fundamentally those are the three basic guarantees the constitution should make. Where was Borah when the Lindbergh law was written? Did he object to it? Does he consider it an invasion of state rights?

Our general notion is that the Lindbergh law seeks to protect property. In fact we do not believe that such a law would ever have been passed if it were not for the element of ransom involved in kidnaping; because when you take the money element out every Negro who has been lynched has been kidnaped. So far as personal safety is concerned, the mobbist is more vicious than the kidnaper, and yet Congress can find a constitutional method to protect rich citizens against kidnapers, while there can be found no method to halt the lyncher.

As we said at the outset, we are awaiting the movement of black Republicans who are going to gravitate in Senator Borah's direction if they assume the Idahoan has a chance. Party fealty will, we assume, cause many to forget that this latest position of Senator Borah places him, so far as principles are concerned, in the middle of the Democratic party.

The States Have Failed

Journal and Guide

THEY lynched a man on the weekend in Georgia, the mob seizing him from armed officers without any effective resistance. From all available versions of the affair not a shot was fired to uphold the law. Beginning at that point the lynching follows the old and familiar pattern. A post mortem alarm was sounded. Searching parties went out. The corpse was found. "No identification was possible." No arrests were made. Another life has been done away with.

3-14-36

The Southern Interracial Commission has aptly said in a just-released study of lynching suggesting federal legislation, "The mob still rides." Evidence is plentiful that this is persistently true. Nearly one hundred persons, white and colored—mostly colored, of course—have died at the hands of lawless mobs during the past five years. Most of the lynchings have occured in the South.

Norfolk Va.

Opposition to the passage of a federal anti-lynching law with teeth in it is based, for one thing, on the claim that any such law will be an invasion of states' rights. The opponents ignore the guarantees to personal or individual rights embodied in the U. S. Constitution. To what extent the states have failed in the matter of curbing mob violence and punishing lynchers is a matter of bloody record.

It is long past time that the effective law inforcement agencies of the national government be given a chance to curb lynchings as they have so many other heinous crimes and offenses against society. The states have failed. Logic and the security of lives and the right to be given a trial in the prescribed and orderly manner demand that the states admit this failure and permit the passage of federal legislation.

MURFREESBORO, TENN.
NEWS JOURNAL
MAR 17 1936

THE LYNCHING PROBLEM

The vast majority of the people in the South condemn mob lynchings, but few realize the ghastly toll they take of innocent lives.

The Commission on Interracial Cooperation has completed a five year study which shows that forty-one per cent of the 84 persons lynched during the last five years was either unaccused of crime or charged only with minor offenses. Further revelations show that of the other 59 per cent of the victims of mobs many were innocent of the crimes with which they were charged. Only one-fourth of the victims were accused of actual or attempted assaults on women, commonly considered as the chief cause of lynchings. In a number of these cases the commission's investigation committee failed to find convincing evidence of guilt.

The commtitee has found that "Though the number of lynchings has declined from a yearly average of 124 thirty-five years ago to an average of 17 for the last ten years the study reveals that the lynching habit fades more slowly from the South than other sections of the country and becomes increasingly a racial phenomem." Of the 84 persons lynched since January 1, 1931, Southern states accounted for 72. In 1935 there were 20 lynchings, indicating a revival of mob violence, despite efforts of various civic organizations and law enforcement bodies to prevent them.

The Interracial Committee found that many times officers of the law plan and even take part in lynchings, that courts rarely indict lynchers and more rarely convict them, and that mobs intimidate the courts preventing proper legal action.

The remedies suggested included more adequate police protection, stronger mob-proof jails, change of venue in trials of lynchers and persons threatened by mob violence, and higher standards of public education that will create a change of attitude permitting the law to handle such cases, instead of the mob.

Thru education and the tightening of the law lies the solution of the mob lynchings. These wil bring respect and adherence to the law.

Lynchings - 1936
~~Discussion~~

White Press, Northern.

5277

5277

GLENS FALLS, N. Y.
TIMES

MAR 18 1936

LYNCHINGS AND LOW MENTALITIES

The many lynchings of which the southern states can boast are to be in part accounted for by the low level of education existing in those parts of the country where they occur, according to a study of the subject made by the Commission on Interracial Cooperation. Most of these mob murders of Negroes are committed in those states of the Union most wanting in wealth and culture—Mississippi, Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama and Arkansas. The Commission's studies show that when lynchings occur outside of these states they will be found to occur in counties where the level of intelligence, wealth and culture is below the level of the state in which the county is located.

This report further points out another significant conclusion, to which anyone who reflects upon the lynching problem must come. It is not only the low order of intelligence of the people that leads to lynchings; it is also the confirmed conviction of these half-witted white southerners that they are members of a race highly superior to the Negro. Those who have seen the play 'Tobacco Road' must have noticed that the poor Georgia whites whose lives and characters are revealed in that drama consider the Negro far beneath them. What the difference is, so far as their material wealth or mental equipment is concerned, between Jeeter Lester, his wife and children and their black neighbors, would require extraordinary penetration to discern. Yet the boy Dude runs over and kills a Negro with his automobile and feels less commiseration than most persons would feel if they ran over a dog.

At the heart of the evil, the Commission believes, is the economic and political exploitation of the blacks. Lynching is the means whereby one poor and ignorant race lords it over another race equally poor and ignorant. The principal difference between the two is that the oppressed race is condemned by a history of prior servitude. In that condition the Negro had no rights that a white man was bound to respect. Then his political and economic subjection was authorized by the law. When his legal slavery ended, he still remained virtually enslaved by custom and tradition, and by reason of the fact that he was surrounded by white men without sufficient intelligence to compete with the Negro otherwise than by violence.

What is the remedy for lynching? After making a shrewd and persuasive analysis of the difficulty and its causes, the Commission has no better suggestion than federal legislation. The obstacle to a national anti-lynching law was freshly put before the public by Senator Borah in his recent Brooklyn speech. What power has Congress under the Constitution to undertake to punish lynching? It is a crime that must be dealt with by the local jurisdiction in which it occurs. With such matters as agricultural relief pressing for solution in the midst of controversy as to federal powers and limitations, it is no time to renew the call on Washington to stop the lynching crimes. If the Commission's diagnosis is correct, there will be no effective remedy until in the fullness of accomplished time the general level of education has risen in the southland and the white population has risen with it.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y.
EAGLE NEWS

MAR 17 1936

AN INDICTMENT OF AMERICAN JUSTICE

The Commission on Interracial Cooperation brought a startling indictment against American justice in its report on the 84 lynchings which occurred in the United States in the last five years. The commission faced with the apathy of local authorities suggested federal, not local, action against the lynchers, but the real cure for this blot on American government lies in education.

As with all crimes of passion, punishment after the crime, does not seem to deter lynchers. The mind of an inflamed mob does not run to the punishments accorded other mobs, if indeed, such punishments have been meted out. The time to catch your lyncher is when he is young, young enough to be impressed with his own wrong-doing.

Lynching is inherently an American crime. There was no doubt a real service connected with the act when in frontier days, citizens who had broken the loose laws of the west were summarily strung up. Life in the mining camps and cattle towns of those days was notoriously free, and it is evident that the men chosen for the doubtful honor of star role in the lynching must have been undesirable citizens, who would make modern gangsters and racketeers look like so many Polyannas.

The excuse given in those times was that justice was lacking and that the lynchers in ridding the community of horse thieves and gunmen were doing society a tremendous favor. There may have been truth in the statement 50 years ago, but today lynching is a survival of the dark ages of justice, a survival that should be dropped into limbo along with trial by combat.

A great percentage of the lynching studied by the commission occurred in the south. Here, if anywhere, the argument that justice is slow and often misses fire, is invalid. What southern jury has ever left much time elapse before it has tried, convicted, and hanged accused negroes. Southern justice in its dealings with negroes has been at all times swift and omnipotent.

This is not a problem for the south alone however but for the whole country. Americans must understand that the frontier days are gone.

HARTFORD, CONN.
TIMES

MAR 31 1936

Let Justice Be Swift and Sure

The fatal assault upon a white young Alabama woman by four Negro young men under conditions that were particularly atrocious and revolting, brings the subject of lynching to the fore.

Lynching is to be abhorred. Its occasional, although happily diminishing, occurrence reveals a kind of savage attempt at justice. Often the result is another crime, this time by people who should be far above such elemental passion for blood vengeance.

To curb lynching two things need to happen in connection with each instance of mob frenzy against the accused—firm action by the police authorities and a quick and fair trial. In the Huntsville, Alabama, case the local police and highway patrolmen took the four Negro youths from a howling mob which had already twisted a wire around the neck of one of them. Tear gas bombs were used to cow the crowd. Then the accused were hurried 140 miles away for safekeeping.

Next it will be important that court action move promptly to mete out justice. If the facts are clear, the verdict can be quickly reached. If they are not, special precaution is called for to prevent injustice being done under the duress of heated popular emotion.

Failing to see the matter handled with dispatch the impatient populace stores up resentment for the next occasion. Unless the courts back up the police the latter will lose in ability to restrain frenzied crowds in the future. On the contrary, if the South can trust its courts, appeal to barbaric methods will be deemed less necessary.

Also, the South should bear in mind that failure to respect judicial procedure may hasten the enactment of Federal anti-lynching legislation, in spite of all the objections to that procedure. In that case, Federal military and judicial agencies will move into action. The states rights principle has a duty to perform in guaranteeing a day in court for every accused or face the hazard of being replaced by Federal action.

PORTLAND, ME.
EXPRESS

APR 6 - 1936

THE LYNCHING RECORD

"The most astounding fact brought out by the study of lynching (conducted by the Commission on Inter-racial Cooperation) is that, of the 84 persons lynched in the five-year period, nearly half were either unaccused of crime or else were charged only with minor offenses. To be exact, in 41 per cent of the cases, the victims either were innocent of any crime or not even accused of any, or else were charged with offenses of a minor nature. To that record of cruel injustice is added the fact that of the other 59 per cent of mob victims in the last five years, many were found on investigation to have been innocent of the crimes with which they were charged. .... Only one-fourth of the victims were accused of actual or attempted assaults upon women."

This statement comes via the Congressional Record from an editorial in the Birmingham Alabama, News. It is eloquent of the disgraceful indulgence in some sections of America in lawlessness and anarchy, an indulgence which has been the reason for repeated attempts to force through Congress an Anti-Lynching Law, placing the responsibility for correction of the whole situation in the Federal Government. One of these attempts is now being made at Washington, inspired to new vigor by the success of the G-Men in handling other forms of crime.

Such a bill, however, should not pass. Responsibility for control of mob violence is a state matter. Intrusion of the Federal authorities into lynching would shortly lead to their intrusion into the whole conduct of law and order activities. We are not yet ready for bureaucratic control of police from Washington. The solution of the lynching problem is the formation of public sentiment so strong that local authorities will really function to prevent and to punish lynchings, interpreting the voice of the people.

DAYTON, OHIO
NEWS

MAR 23 1936

Southern View of Lynching

Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, declared a few days ago that with moderation of the weather resumption of lynching could be expected. Almost simultaneously with that prediction a lynching did occur, in Georgia. At the same time also and very appropriately from the same state came the report of the findings of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation in a study of lynchings during the last five years.

Most of the 84 persons lynched in that period, the survey points out, were Negroes most of the lynchings occurred in the south 41 per cent of the victims were charged with petty offenses or none. The relation between lynchings and lack of "wealth and culture," as in Mississippi, Alabama Georgia, South Carolina and Arkansas, the lowest ranking states in the country in those respects, is particularly noted.

Education is seen as fundamental to the whole problem and the vastness of the task of furthering it is recognized. "Lynching and the threat of it," says the report, "are now primarily a technique of enforcing racial exploitation—economic, political and cultural." It makes other familiar charges: The connivance and sometimes the participation of officers; failure of the courts to indict lynchers, let alone convict them; "legal lynchings" through mob domination of the courts.

The discovery of the connection between ignorance and poverty and lynchings is not new; earlier studies long since arrived at the same conclusion. The other allegations likewise have repeatedly been made. The repetition is nonetheless desirable; in this instance it has special significance because of its source.

Composed of southern educators, journalists and members of the clergy, both Negroes and whites, the commission represents the first organized effort in the south to end lynchings. It calls for the placing of responsibility on federal and state police; the sharing of responsibility for trial of lynchers by state or federal prosecutors; the provision of stronger jails and adequate police service. Such a movement is itself indication of the beginning of the education which the commission holds essential to the extermination of lynching.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
WORLD-TELEGRAM

APR 30 1936

hivalry Claims Hit by Royston Lynching

"Gallant" Southerners' Outrage Stirs Suspicion of Faulty Accusation.

By DOROTHY DUNBAR BROMLEY.

SOME people may think that the lynching of Negroes is motivated as much by race hatred as it is by a desire to protect the flower of feminine virtue. But such critics do not appreciate the true chivalry of a Southern mob.

Consider the laudable zeal of the crowd of forty men who two days ago strung up Lint Shaw, a Negro of 50, accused of assaulting two young women while they were walking on a country road. Shaw, it is true, was not apprehended at the time of the alleged assault, but when he was arrested at Danielsville, Ga., the girls said he was the man. That was reason enough—together with the fact that he had used a knife on the arresting officers—for a masked mob to take it upon themselves to avenge the honor of the two young women.

Dorothy Dunbar Bromley.

Quite naturally it made the mob's blood boil to let the Negro wait for his punishment until the jury had weighed the evidence for and against him. A white man, of course, is entitled to a trial by his peers, but a colored man is hardly entitled to justice from his superiors.

* * *

Braves Mob's Wrath.

SO the mob, itching to get their hands on the accused, gallantly started digging at the foundations of the jail until they were stopped by 74-year-old Judge Berry Moseley, who had a different idea of gallantry. Leaving a sickbed, he commanded the mob "to stop violating the law by breaking into the jail," and in order to spike their guns he turned the tables by deputizing 100 citizens as officers of the law. Then, for safe keeping, he ordered the prisoner sent to Atlanta and later to Royston, Ga.

But it takes more than a judge to put the fear of the law into a Southerner out to lynch or to thwart him in his attempt to hang any Negro who can be caught as a sacrificial offering to the purity of womanhood.

Wherefore, a few hours before the trial, the knights-errant overpowered the jail keeper at Royston, laid rough hands on their prey and strung him up without more ado. For good measure they riddled the Negro's body with bullets, and the next day the Coroner's jury, who undoubtedly could have named the executioners if they had had a mind to, reported that the prisoner had died of gunshot wounds inflicted by "persons unknown."

* * *

Branded Southern Brutality.

THUS endeth another chapter in the glorious history of Southern chivalry. I hear someone down in front call it "Southern brutality" and someone else call it "Southern criminality." It's true, of course, that the mob's haste in killing the Negro Shaw before he had been brought to trial arouses the strong suspicion that there was not enough evidence to convict him of assault even before a jury south of the Mason and Dixon line. It is possible, too, that one of the young women who identified him and accused him of assault might have gone back on her story in court, as Ruby Bates did in the Scottsboro case.

But, when all is said and done, why should men be scrupulous about the law where women's honor is concerned? Daughters of the South—those who have not joined the Southern Women's Committee Against Lynching—must be proud to know that their men will kill for their sake. How much prouder than the women of Bermuda, where there's never been a lynching, so far as I know, despite the fact that 16,000 colored people and 11,000 whites live in close quarters?

This proves, no doubt, that the quality of chivalry is not strained

in our sunny South—except among men, like Judge Moseley, who believe in letting the courts avenge women's honor. Or does it prove that women's honor is only a shabby excuse for persecuting a subject race?

BALTIMORE, MD.
EVENING SUN

APR 28 1936

It Didn't Take

Just a fortnight ago it appeared that Alabama's determination to scotch lynchings had caught on in the neighboring State of Georgia.

A mob stormed the jail at Danielson, Ga., attempting to batter a hole in the brick building and drag away a Negro named Lint Shaw, who was being held for pursuing two white girls. While the mobsters were hammering away, 74-year-old Judge Berry T. Moseley left a sick bed to come to the jail to try to prevent a lynching. His action was soon supported by the arrival of National Guardsmen, who put the mob to rout.

This prompt action of the authorities seemed to indicate that the Alabama spirit was catching. Today, however, comes news from Georgia indicating that it didn't take. Lint Shaw last night was hauled out of jail, strung up to a tree and riddled with bullets.

Obviously, Georgians—or, at least, some of them—can't be persuaded, by example, to give up their barbaric pastimes.

Lynchings-1936
Discussion.

White Press, Northern.

5278

WILMINGTON, DEL.
NEWS
MAY 1 - 1936

ALABAMA SPOILS A LYNCHING PARTY

THE strenuous efforts that are being made in Alabama to prevent the lynching of a young Negro accused of the murder of a white girl stand out brightly above the dark roll of mob murders in the South which have been accomplished without interference, if not with the actual connivance, of officers sworn to uphold the law.

For a certain time the present case followed the old familiar pattern. A white girl was found murdered. A Negro youth was arrested on suspicion, with or without incriminating evidence of any sort. But before he had been convicted, tried, or even formally charged with the crime, a mob gathered about the jail to take his life for a crime of which he may well be as innocent as any member of the crowd.

At this point the authorities did what so few states or communities have had the courage to do: they called out enough troops to handle the mob and keep the prisoner safe from attack. An escort of 112 national guardsmen surrounded the courthouse where the Negro was arraigned and accompanied him from Huntsville, where the hearing was held, to Birmingham, where he was taken for safekeeping. When the would-be lynchers became menacing, they were dispersed with tear gas.

It is a sad commentary on the lack of respect for law and order in this Alabama community that the lynchers gathered in the first place and that they were so confident that they would be able to take the law into their own hands. But it is safe to say that the drastic methods adopted by the Alabama authorities to safeguard their prisoner offer the most feasible method of teaching advocates of lynch rule that the laws are made to be enforced, that a Negro has as much right to a fair trial and a right to prove his innocence as a white man.

Lynching has grown up largely because police officials have been unwilling or afraid to stand up before the members of a community who have decided to take the law into their own hands. It has been continued because state officials have condoned the actions of the local authorities or have failed to back them up with proper force. The Alabama method is a good example to follow and there will be far fewer lynchings and far less reason to call out troops in the future if more would-be lynchers get the same reception as the Huntsville mob.

CHICAGO, ILL.
CHRISTIAN CENTURY
APR 8 - 1936

Lynching in America: Today's Facts

OPINIONS may differ as to the proposed federal anti-lynching law, but there can hardly be two opinions as to the horror of the facts which the Commission on interracial cooperation has brought together in its new pamphlet, "The Mob Still Rides." The pamphlet is a restrained but inclusive study of the nation's lynching record from 1931 to the close of 1935. It shows that 41 per cent of the 84 persons lynched during this period were either not even accused of crime or were charged with only minor offenses; that of the other 59 per cent, many were certainly innocent of the crimes with which they were charged; that only a fourth of the victims were so much as accused of actual or attempted assaults on women—the usual cause alleged to justify mob killings—and that in a number of these cases the commission's investigators could find no convincing evidence of guilt. Two sections in this new study of the lynching evil deserve special attention. In one, the commission points out that, although the large newspapers of the south almost all oppose lynching, they publish reports of these lynching affairs which, in most cases, have been written by local correspondents in isolated communities who share the community passion and seldom, therefore, give an accurate account. As a result, the general public is denied a true understanding of the sadistic license of the mob. In another section, after advocating better police service, stronger jails, more efficient court procedures, and proper care of mental defectives, the commission adds this realistic note: "It is fundamentally important also that the poorer rural areas of the south be brought to share more equitably in the economic and cultural wealth of the nation. Any effective program must be geared to the task of lifting above the lynching level the poorest rural areas and the poorest elements in a yet larger region." Copies of this pamphlet may be obtained, at ten cents each, from the commission's headquarters, 710 Standard building, Atlanta, Georgia.

TOLEDO, OHIO
NEWS BEE
MAY 12 1936

U. S. BAR SEEKS LYNCHING LAW

Resolution Framed Here Will Ask Dems and G. O. P. To Put It on Platforms

Resolutions demanding that Congress enact a law against lynching, prepared at a committee meeting of the National Bar Association here Monday, will be submitted to both the Republican and Democratic platform committees this summer.

The resolutions were prepared by the association's fact-finding committee. Jesse S. Heslip, Toledo attorney and past president, is committee chairman; Euclid Louis Taylor, Chicago, is secretary, and C. Francis Stradford, Chicago, general counsel.

Other requests to be submitted to the platform committees inclue: Representation of Negroes in judicial branches of the government; taking of definite steps to safeguard the Negro's civil rights; granting to Negroes the right of ballot in primaries as well as in general elections, and representation on administrative boards and commissions, includinf the Civil Service Commission.

The latter plank recommends that civil service applicants submit fingerprints instead of photos, as a means of preventing race discrimination.

Raleigh, N. C. Observer
May 2, 1936

Is The Mob The South

Within the last month the So
and the world has seen two Sou
in action.

On April 11, Judge Berry
Moseley, a man of 74 years, r
from a sick bed to stand before t
jail in Danielsville, Georgia, an
there alone turn back a mob intent
upon lynching a Negro in the hands
of the law.

On April 28, the mob came back. No man with the spine of old Judge Moseley was at hand. The Negro's body, snatched from the hands of the law, was left riddled with bullets and tied to a pine tree.

Was the judge or the mob truest representative of the South? Is Southern civilization one marked by devotion to law, by courage, by true chivalry, by decency and by justice, or is it the running mob that violates the law and kills the unconvicted in the anonymity of cowardice?

Every mob that murders kills more than the victim of its savagery. Every lynching kills a little of the South's good name, destroys a little of dignity of Southern justice, makes ludicrous the South's reputation for courage, and makes an indecent joke of the joining of the words Southern and chivalry.

Is the mob the South? Can any honest Southerner imagine one of the South's heroes running with a mob? It is almost sacrilege even to ask it: But what Southerner can imagine Lee or Jackson at a lynching? Every Southerner who loves the South knows that their ghosts stood at old Judge Moseley's shoulders and that the only relationships they and the South they fought for courageously and openly have with the mob are the relationships of anger and contempt for those who do violence in namelessness to the South's good name.

The North Ga. Journal
Rossville, Ga.
May 1, 1936

'String 'Em Up

By way of placing another blotch on the Georgia lynching record a blood-thirsty mob at Royston Tuesday hanged a negro and later riddled his body with over 100 bullets. The negro was to be tried on the day of the lynching for criminally attacking a white girl.

Native Georgians were informed of the brutal lynching, the second in this state in six weeks, through the newspapers. Undoubtedly several persons were grieved at the action of the white mob. Still others shrugged their shoulders and agreed that lynching is a bad thing. Numbers of persons probably joined in the opinion that the negro got his just desserts—he should have been hanged and shot to pieces, they opine.

Regardless of the manner in which Georgians look at the lynching problem, the fact remains that the entire state suffers from lack of solution of the question.

—o—

Two facts connected with the Royston lynching stand out: The action of Lint Shaw in violating a white woman is ample evidence that the negro has yet a long road to travel before he leaves behind the savagery and bestial passion of his African heritage. The mob action of the white man is equally strong proof that he has not yet learned to respect authority of the law, and that the passions exhibited in the lynching of the negro, while not of the same nature, were equally fierce as the passions that prompted the crime.

—o—

The solution of this problem, we believe, lies in the education of the masses. Perhaps it will take a number of years to change the sentiments of Southern illiterates and to show them the difference between right and wrong. It will cost large sums of money to establish schools and to employ able teachers to go to the backwoods and break down the "cakes of custom" of the illiterate classes. But of a necessity it must be done. The Royston lynching is only one example of the need. It is the duty of intelligent Southerners to start the war on illiteracy at once.

Ocilla, Ga., Star
May 7, 1936

A REGRETTED LYNCHING

THE lynching of a negro at Pavo a few days ago is something to be regretted by all right thinking people every where. This negro was charged with kinning a white man. He was in the custody of the law when a mob seized him and lynched him. There was no probability that he would have escaped the punishment that he evidently deserved. There were no embarrasing details to be told before a court full of men by an outraged woman. An ordinary trial before the regular court and conviction sure if the evidence warranted it.

But the mob was not willing to wait. It took the law into its own hands and added murder to the crime the negro had committed. There was no excuse. If the truth were known, the men who committed this crime against society would be found to be men whose record for law observance was not above reproach. Yet they meted out punishment against an offender.

We confess a degree of sympathy in the case of an outrage against a woman. While we all know that a lynching for any cause is wrong, yet the provocation is so great that there is not the revulsion of feeling in a case of this sort as is the case in this instance.

Three lynchings in the South within one week is a record of which we can not be proud.

Ocilla, Ga., Star
May 7, 1936

CRUCIFYING GEORGIA

(Editorial, Atlanta Constitution, April 30)

THE lynching of a Negro at Royston on the day before he was to be put on trial, and with his conviction assured, was a mockery of law and order that crucifies the state in the eyes of the whole country.

When this Negro was arrested some weeks ago, charged with attempted assault, he was rescued from the hands of a mob by the courageous action of an aged judge, who arose from a sick bed to successfully plead with the mob that the law be permitted to take its course and the state be saved from a blotch on its good name.

The mob dispersed and later a detail of the state militia mrought the Negro to Atlanta for safekeeping. Then the law proceded to move swiftly and surely, the date for the Negro's trial being set for less than a month after the commission of the offense with which he was charged, and in view of his positive identification by the victims of his attempted attack there was no doubt of his conviction and legal execution.

The barbarous manner in which the mob took matters in its own hands has the effect of crucifying Georgia. Flouting the efforts of a brave judge who had taken his life in his hands to save the Negro from an earlier lynching, and had kept his promise for an early and speedy trial, the mob went about its gruesome business, with apparently no oppositon from either local or state officers of the law.

Where the blame lies The Constitution does not know, but it seems strange that this culprit should have been returned for trial unprotected when his safety required the presence of national guardsmen only a few weeks earlier.

It is a sad commentary when a prisoner on the eve of his trial, and with the law moving swiftly nad surely, is forcibly taken from jail and brutally and barbarously murdered.

Charlotte, N. C., News
May 1, 1936

Moves To Halt Mob Violence Being Planned

Authorities On Racial Problems Propose eNw State Laws And Church Education Work.

Atlanta, May 1.—(AP)—Aroused by the lynching of two negroes on successive days in the south this week, two authorities on interracial problems proposed new state laws and further educational work through churches today to check mob violence.

"Lift the trials out of an atmosphere of violence," suggested R. B. Eleazer, of Atlanta, educational director of the commission on interracial cooperation, in an interview. He proposed statutes making mandatory the removal of trials to distant counties when mob intervention might be expected.

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, president of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, said the work of the Methodist and Baptist churches was the "greatest hope."

Scores Attitude

Addressing Rollins college students at Winter Park, Fla., Mrs. Ames criticised an attitude which she said was fostered by some organizations, that "no matter how low a white man got, he was always better than any negro who ever walked."

She said also that there was a class of white women who "on the slightest pretext claim they have been assaulted."

Eleazer cited the mandatory change of venue as a possible guard against such incidents as the shooting of Willie Kees, 19-year-old negro, at Lepanto, Ark., the slaying of Lint Shaw, 45, at Colbert, Ga., and a demonstration at Huntsville, Ala., against a negro accused of the attack-slaying of Vivian Woodward which national guardsmen broke up with tear gas.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
May 8, 1936

From Baltimore

This is from Baltimore, which claims to be sort of Southern, though evidently it has been somewhat infected by proximity to the border; this is from *The Evening Sun* whose cleverness is fairly seldom bought at the expense of distortion, whose good humor is equalled by its good sense and whose understanding of the South often is on a par with its interest in this region:

ALABAMA STANDS FIRM

Three more lynchings have occurred in the South within a week, but none was staged in Alabama.

This is noteworthy, because Alabama has suffered more for preventing a lynching than any other state. Nevertheless, she keeps right on stopping them. In spite of Scottsboro, Alabama remains definitely opposed to mob murder as a means of settling her difficulties.

Unfortunately, this spirit doesn't seem to be contagious. Two of last week's festive butcheries took place in Georgia, separated from Alabama only by an imaginary line, but evidently separated from her by a vast intellectual gulf.

Now this is clearer and seemingly more complimentary than previous comments on the same subject along the same smart line. But still, may we deep Alabamians be forgiven, if only because of our geographical and genealogical handicaps, if we still are not quite sure whether the ever so delicately ironical *Evening Sun* intends by all this a left-handed compliment or a right-handed slap.

Or maybe it is neither and something else again entirely. We wouldn't know.

Lynchings - 1936
Discussion -

White Press, Northern.

5279

BOSTON, MASS
Christian Science Monitor

FEB 21 1936

Mobbing the Constitution

PATRIOTIC Americans rightly object to attacks on the United States Constitution. That document is the guardian of rights without which men and women born and educated in the democratic tradition would find themselves constantly facing intolerable situations.

Situations, for instance, like the one in which three Negroes were forced by Mississippi authorities to confess to murder of a white planter and were then sentenced to death. Besides the fact—as Chief Justice Hughes has put it in a Supreme Court decison—that there was no evidence aside from the confessions "which would warrant the submission of the case to the jury," stands evidence of maltreatment of the prisoners gruesome enough to warrant the Supreme Court's observation that "the rack and the torture chamber may not be substituted for the witness stand."

Be it said for Mississippi justice that two southern gentlemen on the State's Supreme Court—Judges Griffith and Anderson—dissented when that court upheld the conviction of the Negroes. These men closer to the problems of the deep South than are most of the South's self-appointed critics, recognized that "in a rarely occasional case which arouses the flaming indignation of a whole community, as was the case here, we shall continue yet for a long time to have outbreaks of the mob or resort to its methods." But to stress a fundamental which people who want "government by law" instead of government by human will or whim must cherish, the Mississippi judges pointed out that no court should "by adoption give legitimacy to any of the works of the mob."

The United States Supreme Court decision guarantees a new trial to the defendants, and rebukes sternly those who are responsible for attempting to blend lawless brutality with justice. But it does more than this. Actually it provides one more defense against those who attack the United States Constitution, not in overzealousness from the speaker's platform, but in the spirit of the mob which recognizes no law but its own inflamed appetite for blind revenge. It protects the Constitution from that most dangerous of all assaults upon it—violation of those fundamental human rights which that great document was designed to protect.

New York Evening Post

FEB 24 1936

"A Blow at Legal Lynchings"

To the Editor of New York Post:

Sir—Permit me to express appreciation for your excellent editorial, "A Blow at Legal Lynchings," in The Post of February 19, dealing with the Supreme Court decision which set aside the conviction of the three Mississippi Negro share-croppers. May I add a word concerning the magnificent argument in the Supreme Court by former Lieutenant Governor Earl Brewer of Mississippi? In the face of community hostility he made a brilliant and successful fight.

I believe this case was handled with almost a record low cost, the entire expense of the legal struggle in the Mississippi and United States Supreme Courts totaling only $1,261.01, of which the Southern Interracial Commission paid $428.67; $307.34 was raised by Bishop Theodore D. Bratton of Mississippi, and the balance of $525 was paid by this association in addition to legal aid.

We now face retrial of the cases in the Mississippi courts. Tragically enough, we do so not only without funds but with a balance of $69.78 yet due. If there are readers of The Post who would care to help see this case to a successful conclusion, contributions will be welcome. Remittances should be sent to Mary White Ovington, treasurer, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

WALTER WHITE,
Secretary National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

POCATELLO, IDAHO
TRIBUNE

FEB 17 1936

U. S. Lynchings Hit by Speaker

The American custom of lynching is caused fundamentally by the double-standard of morals between blacks and whites and the double supply of black and white labor in a condition of economic insecurity, contended Alice Butler speaking in the Community Forum Sunday evening at the Methodist church.

Miss Butler stated that lynching is a contagious social disease to intimidate the negro against taking jobs and to leave them free for white laborers.

Of the 4,660 lynchings in the United States 3,368 have been negroes and 1,292 white people, about which foreign nations express their amazement in regard to our nation which claims to be Christian and highly civilized, Miss Butler added.

To correct the custom of lynching Miss Butler suggested that the educational system be improved giving better schools and playgrounds, and also suggested the Costigan-Wagoner anti-lynching bill which is now opposed, she said by (1) the lynchers themselves, (2) southern senators resenting the implication of the attack against the south, (3) and those believing a federal law is unconstitutional.

Rabbi Samuel Gordon of Temple Beth Israel, Salt Lake City, will be the forum speaker next Sunday. His talk will mark the Pocatello observance of national brotherhood day. He also speaks at the Congregational church during the morning, and at 6:30 p. m. at the First ward L. D. S. church.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.
Democrat Chronicle

FEB 29 1936

Borah's Consistent Record

An incident in the early public career of Senator Borah is being recalled gratefully by members of the Negro race as an indication of his attitude toward the crime of lynching, and also in answer to vicious propaganda being circulated by political enemies.

The incident referred to took place in 1903, when Senator Borah was first beginning to attract public attention by his vigorous administration of the office of district attorney. He interfered, at the risk of his life to save James Quarles, a Negro, from being taken from the jail at Nampa, Idaho, by a mob seeking to kill him for having shot a white deputy sheriff.

Senator Borah and another deputy sheriff took the Negro out of the jail after the mob had broken the door down and placed him on a waiting engine and caboose and transferred him to another jail. Later the man was freed on a plea of self-defense.

Senator Borah on that occasion showed the same determination to uphold law and order and the right of any American to a fair trial, regardless of his race, that he has shown all through the years in standing true to his convictions.

His opposition, on constitutional grounds, to the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching law has been seized upon by the busy Democratic press bureau as an excuse for starting a "smear" Borah campaign as it is endeavoring to "smear" every other Republican mentioned for the presidency. The most reckless charges have been made and circulated among Negro voters, all of them groundless, as an examination of his record will show.

Sincere friends of the Negro feel that it would be a tragedy and a blow to the progress of the race if this malicious propaganda were to influence Negro voters. The Democrat and Chronicle is in receipt of a letter from a Negro reader which accuses Senator Borah of an attitude of intolerance toward his race that would be possible only in the case of a bigoted Southerner, reared in an environment where lynch law is condoned as a necessity for keeping the Negro population in subjection.

The Republican Party has been the historic friend of the Negroes. All the rights they possess today they owe to that party. They have nothing to hope for from the Democratic Party and never will have so long as it draws its chief strength from the "solid South." Representative Hamilton Fish spoke a timely word of warning the other day, when he called attention to dangerous agitation which has its origin in the Democratic Party to break down constitutional safeguards and said:

"My advice to the colored American citizens is to stand steadfast by the Constitution and all defenders of it and particularly by Senator Borah, who is the greatest and most fearless expounder and upholder of the Constitution in the United States."

CLEVELAND, OHIO
NEWS

MAR 17 1936

Lynchings—Whose Responsibility?

THERE were 25 lynchings in 1935.

Senator Byrnes of South Carolina is the chairman of the Senate committee which has pigeonholed a resolution by Senator Van Nuys of Indiana, calling for a Senate investigation of the lynchings which occurred in 1935 following the Senate filibuster against the Costigan-Wagner bill.

Senator Nuys' resolution was reported favorably by the judiciary committee, and then it was referred to the committee on audit and control. This committee is evenly divided on the resolution. Favorable action is opposed by the chairman and Senator Bachman of Tennessee, while the other two members, Senator Tydings of Maryland and Senator Townsend of Delaware, want to refer it to the entire membership of the Senate.

All American citizens who would guarantee justice to every individual, regardless of color or creed, should urge other members of the United States Senate to demand from Senator Byrnes' committee a chance to vote on the Van Nuys resolution.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
DAILY WORKER

MAR 16 1936

Answer the Lynchers

LAST Saturday, another Negro worker, accused of "attacking two white women," was foully lynched. The mob "got" him before he could be tried by a jim-crow court.

Is this not the logical result of such orgies of hatred and lynch hysteria as Governor Talmadge's "Grass Roots Convention"? What else could come from a rotting system where such fascist organizations as the Ku Klux Klan and the "Woman's Association for the Preservation of the White Race" ride high and wide, terrorizing the population, trampling every right of the Negro people into the dust, and making the Negro and white workers safe for landlord oppression?

This shameless atrocity would do Hitler and Mussolini proud. It's a bloody example of the fascism which Hearst and the Liberty Leaguers would clamp on all liberty-loving Americans.

Demand an immediate, impartial investigation of the lynching and the death penalty for the "masked and unknown" murderers!

Let the Negro people and all their supporters swing into action behind the militant anti-lynching program of the National Negro Congress!

N. Y. EVENING POST

MAR 16 1936

To the Editor of New York Post:

Sir—Next summer, when Congress shall have adjourned and lynchings occur with frequency, editorial writers and others will be pointing out the necessity of Federal legislation. May I be permitted to call attention therefore to what is happening at Washington?

On January 6, 1936, Senator Frederick Van Nuys of Indiana introduced a resolution for a Senate investigation of the lynchings which occurred in 1935 following the Senate filibuster against the Costigan-Wagner bill. The Van Nuys resolution provides for an investigation of the lynchings which occurred between May 1 and December 31, 1935, with particular reference to the action or lack of action on the part of the various States to prevent these lynchings or to punish the lynchers.

The Van Nuys resolution was reported out favorably by the Senate Judiciary Committee on February 11. It then went to the Senate Committee on Audit and Control, where it now rests. Senator James F. Byrnes of South Carolina declines to call a meeting of that committee to take action upon it. It is reported in Washington that the committee, consisting at present of four Senators, is evenly divided on the resolution—Senators Byrnes and Nathan L. Bachman (of Tennessee) opposing favorable action, while Senators Millard E. Tydings (of Maryland) and John G. Townsend Jr. (of Delaware) favor.

Unless public opinion lets this committee, the White House and individual Senators know it wants this resolution reported favorably, the resolution is going to be smothered in committee by the forces which oppose any corrective action against lynching. The tide of lynching is rapidly increasing against both white and Negro Americans, North as well as South.

During 1935 there were twenty-five authenticated lynchings and 102 instances of lynchings narrowly averted by the escape of the intended victim, augmenting of jail guards, removal of the prisoners or by other means. Students of the question consider narrowly averted lynchings as serious as consummated ones in that they show the presence of the lynching spirit.

Who knows what man or woman, white or Negro, now alive and happy, may not be the next victim unless Americans who oppose such anarchy let Congress know that they must act before adjournment?

WALTER WHITE,
Secretary National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

CHICAGO, ILL.
TRIBUNE

MAR 16 1936

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Writers should confine themselves to 200 or 300 words. Give full names and addresses. No manuscripts can be returned. Address Voice of the People, The Tribune.

THE LYNCHING INQUIRY.

Chicago, March 10.—With the approach of warm weather, when crowds can gather in the streets, we may anticipate with tragic certainty the resumption of lynching. The unusually severe weather which kept men and women indoors has brought about a temporary lull during the last few months, added to the fear while congress is in session of the passage of federal anti-lynching legislation, should lynching break out.

Next summer, when congress shall have adjourned and lynchings occur with frequency, editorial writers and others will be pointing out the necessity of federal legislation. May I be permitted to call attention, therefore, to what is happening at Washington. On Jan. 6, 1936, Senator Frederick Van Nuys of Indiana introduced a resolution for a senate investigation of the lynchings which occurred in 1935, following the senate filibuster against the Costigan-Wagner bill. The Van Nuys resolution provides for an investigation of the lynchings which occurred between May 1 and Dec. 31, 1935, with particular reference to the action or lack of action on the part of the various states to prevent these lynchings or to punish the lynchers.

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WALTER WHITE,
Secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

ST. LOUIS, MO.
STAR TIMES

MAR 31 1936

NO LYNCH LAW IN ALABAMA.

One of these days in Missouri, when a mob gathers to hang or burn at the stake some Negro or white suspect, there will be need of the same type of executive courage and promptness that was shown Sunday and Monday in Alabama. There will be need also of the same determination to have the law respected on the part of local officials. It would be pleasant to say we don't have lynchings and burnings in Missouri, but it would not be true. We have had them repeatedly in the past, the perpetrators have almost invariably escaped punishment, the lynchings could in almost every instance have been prevented, and that means they will be attempted again when provocation arises at some future date.

The Huntsville, Ala., mob assembled after a young woman was found dying, ravished and with her skull crushed. The mob surrounded the jail where four Negro suspects had been taken, but state highway patrolmen and local officers held submachine guns in readiness and dispersed the mob with tear gas. Governor Graves meanwhile had been notified and had called out three companies of national guard, and later the Negro suspects were turned over to the guardsmen and taken to Birmingham. It is not always possible to protect prisoners like that in small and isolated communities, but the existence of a state highway patrol on call almost everywhere makes it easier to prevent these mob outbreaks or to hold the mob back until national guardsmen arrive, even where local officials fail to do their duty.

We have all these anti-mob agencies in Missouri. Alabama, Tennessee and several other southern states are making a determined effort to end the lynching disgrace. It's up to their neighbors, Missouri and states farther north to follow.

Lynchings-1936
& Discussions

White Press, Northern.

5280

NEWS
Stillwater Minn

MAY 29 1936

LAW VS. LYNCH

In Florida a Polk county jury found five former Tampa policemen guilty of kidnaping and flogging three labor leaders last November, a case made famous for its brutality and the death of one of the victims.

In Louisiana a federal court jury fined a sheriff $2500 for negligence in failing to prevent the lynching of Fred Moore, a Negro boy, in 1933. Because the case was brought by the dead boy's parents in Arkansas the trial fell under federal jurisdiction.

But these triumphs of law, encouraging as they are, do not cancel out the other side of the picture.

Lawlessness, masquerading as super-patriotism, is brought to light in Michigan. The Black Legion, a terroristic secret society professing allegiance to the Constitution but conducting an undercover campaign of race hatred and religious intolerance, is caught redhanded in the mob murder of a young WPA worker. State police investigate tips that this vigilante organization was resonsible for many other "purification" murders whch were disguised as suicides.

There is ample justification—yes, necessity—for an expansion of the federal police power to the end that we may stamp out mob violence just as we have stamped out kidnaping. In the last 54 years. lynch mobs have slain 5000 men and women. Since the spring of 1935, when a Senate filibuster shelved the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching law, there has been 25 actual lynchings and 117 attempted lynchings, narrowly averted.

DULUTH, MINN.
NEWS TRIBUNE

JUN 1 - 1936

Progress Against Lynching

In awarding damages of twenty-five hundred dollars to the parents of a Negro youth who was lynched by a mob at Labadieville, Louisiana, in 1933, a jury at New Orleans has taken a step that is a credit to the South. This recent commendable action proves that not all Southerners condone the crime of lynching, and indicates a growing sense of opposition to the brutalities of lynch law.

The judgment was rendered against the sheriff and his bondsmen, on the ground that the officer, sworn to uphold the law, was derelict in his duty in failing to protect the prisoner who was in his keeping, and it was brought out that deputies assisted the mob, or at least did nothing to prevent it from carrying out its dastardly purpose.

Perhaps a few more such judgments will make officers of the law more alert. A long step in the prevention of lynchings would be the passage of the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill. This measure would make state and local officials answerable to the federal government, and would impose heavy penalties for failure to protect prisoners and other persons against mob violence. It would provide compensation for the dependents of mob victims.

Drastic measures are needed and are justified in curbing mob lawlessness and in removing the hideous blot of lynching from American civilization. A growing respect for law and decency in the South, and an increasing public feeling against lynching, are wholesome signs.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.
CITIZEN

JUN 18 1936

Southern Chivalry Revealed

Southerners have a manner of taking matters in their own hands when they accuse a Negro of rape or almost any other crime. They simply throw a rope over the limb of a tree and hang the supposed offender. That illegal process is called lynching. The inhabitants of our Southern States do not limit their extra-legal enforcement to Negroes; they also exert it on whites, but in those cases they do not kill as a rule. They take such steps particularly when some one comes around who does not approve of some of their customs. A Memphis social worker and a minister of the gospel went to Crittenden County, Arkansas, to investigate the death of one of the striking share-croppers. The Negro striker, it was suspected, was killed. As a result, the girl, the minister and a share-cropper were beaten and driven from the county. Welts, five inches wide, were seen on the girl's back when she returned to Memphis. The other two also showed signs of beatings. The Southerners did the same thing before the Civil War to abolitionists. They have not changed and they apparently want to be let alone in their lawlessness. We should suggest to social welfare workers that they avoid such martyrdom, unless, of course, they can find an armed force to accompany them. Southern chivalry, as all should know, is reserved for special occasions.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
WORLD TELEGRAM

JUN 24 1936

Both North and South Must Fight Mob Rule

Foes of Lynchings Increasing in South, Writer Says in Answer to Critic.

By DOROTHY DUNBAR BROMLEY.

Dorothy Dunbar Bromley.

HAVING just received a letter which accuses me of emitting "numerous blasts of hate of the South," I take pleasure in pointing with approval to the activities of the Institute on Regional Development now being held at the University of North Carolina. In the course of the sessions educators frankly deplored discriminations against Negroes in Southern universities, and the address of the only Negro member of the institute, Professor J. Y. Mitchell, was greeted with more applause than any on Monday's program. program.

This is a sign that intelligent Southerners deplore injustice as much as any Northerners do. Certainly we in the North cannot afford to adopt a holier-than-thou attitude so long as we have Black Legions and vigilante strike-breakers taking secret orders and shooting to kill.

While there's no call for us to be righteous, there's no call, either, for us to ignore injustice and bestiality wherever they raise their ugly heads. This is a point my correspondent seems not to have considered in her wrath. Because I condemned the flogging of a minister and a social worker whose one offense was that they sympathized with the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, and because I declared that share-croppers in the South were living in a state of peonage, I am called "a thieving daughter and granddaughter of thieves."

• • •

No Excuse for Outrages.

MY ancestors and I are thieves, it seems, because the industrial North bled the agrarian South. It may mollify this reader to hear that I hold no brief for Eastern manufacturers who have fattened on a high tariff at the expense of other sections and classes. Still, the South's poverty hardly seems sufficient excuse for floggings, lynchings and widespread serfdom any more than market conditions in Northern cities are an excuse for sweatshops.

But the floggings in Arkansas don't need to be justified, this reader claims, because they are only fiction. "You don't care," she accuses me, "whether the tales you hear are lies or not. It is always a good idea to scream your hate of the South."

If this gentle reader knew anything about our trade she would know that any newspaper writer who values his or her reputation verifies sensational stories before commenting on them. Even if we didn't have a conscience about misleading the public, we would have too much professional pride to be left out on a limb. Certainly the circumstances in this case and the nature of the change justify a thorough investigation.

Have Not Disappeared.

If the Rev. Mr. Williams and Miss Blagden were really flogged, my correspondent wants to know why Mr. Williams "has departed for parts unknown." She will be disappointed to hear, no doubt, that Mr. Williams and Miss Blagden have not disappeared, but intend to re-enter Arkansas and prefer charges as soon as the Tenant Union's agent has completed his investigation and obtained the names of the six men in white who took them for a ride and a brutal flogging.

When the charges are brought it is to be hoped that the federal jury which will hear Miss Blagden's case, since she is not a resident of Arkansas, will act without regard to local prejudice. They have had a good example set them by the federal jury in Louisiana, which, after the lynching of a Negro boy, awarded damages to the parents of the victim.

Doubtless my correspondent who accuses me of spreading hate would claim that no lynchings have taken place. Fortunately there are an increasing number of Southerners who are not willing to call black white.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
RECORD

JUL 12 1936

PENNSYLVANIA'S JUDGE LYNCH

Is lynching a product of "mob hysteria?" Is it a sudden and inexplicable thing that seizes only the most ignorant and embittered members of the most backward communities?

It is not. If it were, it would be easier to combat.

The worst aspect of lynching is that it is privately—and sometimes publicly—condemned and tolerated by many community leaders in every part of the country.

The nation will not soon forget that the late Governor Rolfe of California publicly approved a particularly brutal lynching.

And just the other day, here in Pennsylvania, in the prosperous and enlightened town of Lancaster, Judge B. C. Atlee said to a Negro prisoner standing before him:

> "This is one of the most despicable offenses ever brought before the local court. It is no credit to the people of Columbia that they allowed you to be here in court today.
>
> "Had they lynched you they would have been justified. I say that although I am sitting here to administer justice. It is most fortunate for you that this offense occurred North of the Mason and Dixon line. No court has to bother with cases of your kind South of that line."

We know of no instance in this State where a Judge has gone so far to undermine law and order and decent government as Judge Atlee has in that statement.

When the people of a community are told by a Judge that they should have taken the law into their own hands, the inference is clear. The Judge appears to mean that the next time they get a similar case (or one a mob imagines is similar) they should administer lynch law and that his court will not punish them.

Because courts in this part of the country "bother" with cases which Judge Atlee would turn over to lynchers, the law-abiding citizens hereabouts are considerably more secure than in those sections where lynch law has a firmer grip.

Ordinary persons who are misguided enough to condone lynching sometimes do not realize that there is more to a lynching than the issue between the mob and an individual victim. Every lynching degrades its participants and lowers the morals of the whole community.

It usually leads to further lawlessness in which the most innocent and respectable citizens may suffer. A layman may be forgiven for not knowing this. A Judge should not be forgiven.

The Record does not believe a man who made the remarks Judge Atlee made should be allowed to remain on the bench of this or any other State.

If incitement to lynching is not an impeachable offense in a judicial officer sworn to uphold the State Constitution, then what is impeachable?

Pennsylvania in recent years has been free from lynching. The proper authorities should see that the bench—of all institutions—does not encourage mob rule.

NEW YORK SUN

JUL 21 1936

WITNESSES CALLED IN JUDGE'S HEARING

House Group Investigates Lynching Statement.

HARRISBURG, Pa., July 21 (A. P.).—A committee of seven members of the House of Representatives summoned about sixteen witnesses for a hearing today into charges that Judge Benjamin C. Atlee of Lancaster, told a Negro prisoner:

"Had they lynched you they would have been justified."

Representative Eugene A. Caputo, head of the judiciary general subcommittee, said "a fair cross-section" of lawyers, court officials and trial spectators has been subpœnaed.

Representatives Marshall A. Shepard, Philadelphia, and Homer S. Brown, Allegheny, Democrats, charged Judge Atlee committed a misdemeanor in office July 10 by telling a prisoner he sentenced for a statutory crime:

"This is one of the most despicable offenses ever brought before the local court. It is no credit to the people of Columbia that they allowed you to be here in court today.

"Had they lynched you they would have been justified. I say that, although I am sitting here to administer justice. It is most fortunate for you that this offense occurred north of the Mason-Dixon line. No court has to bother with cases of your kind south of that line."

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
NEWS

JUL 14 1936

We Do Not Want Lynchings Here

JUDGE B. C. ATLEE of Lancaster might be moved to reconsider his ill-advised bench comments in which he condoned lynching if he were in Alabama now.

Whether he would or would not, we prefer not to have such displays of mob rule as have repeatedly characterized the age-old race and lynch problems in the south, repeated in this state.

At the moment this is being written all of the law and order agencies of Alabama are being moved as rapidly as possible to halt what is feared will result in another blot upon civilization—the lynching of a Negro accused of attempting to attack a white woman.

Ill-Advised Bench Remark

That is what, according to his declaration in court, Judge Atlee would approve of in this state.

Possibly Judge Atlee was speaking without thinking.

But as one who is ordained to uphold the law and dispense justice impartially, he should THINK.

There is a due process of law to adequately punish all offenses against society.

That is something mob rule never can do.

If Judge Atlee considers the kind of "justice" meted out by a frenzied job to be superior to that of the orderly processes of court procedure, it would seem he is wasting his time upon the bench.

Of course, he doesn't.

But statements advocating defiance of the law and contempt for the courts—which is what lynching most certainly is—are liable to have serious effects, especially when they are voiced by the court itself.

Lynching - 1936
& Discussions.

White Press, Northern

5281

International

"Jungle justice"—which has cost the lives of 4,669 persons since 1882

COMBATING MOBS: Campaign Against Lynching Dramatized by Banner on Fifth Avenue

The next time a howling mob of leering men, women and children bursts open a rusty jail door and drags its quavering victim forth to trial by rope and fire, New Yorkers will not find it out in the papers alone. Across commuter-filled Fifth Avenue a giant white banner will cry in black letters, "A man was lynched yesterday."

Latest and most spectacular scheme of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the flag lies ready and waiting in a corner of its Manhattan offices. Veterans among the Association's 100,000 members, like their chief, grave J. E. Spingarn, have fought for thirty years to abolish "jungle justice." Now they hope that a fluttering bit of cloth will, at long last, jar a public whose indifference has cost the lives of 4,669 persons since 1882.

In 1892 the American public was jarred—momentarily. An all-time high of 231 screaming human sacrifices on the altar of blood-lust set preachers hammering their pulpits, and stirred editors to unaccustomed zeal. But ardor soon cooled, and as lynchings in the next decade were cut in half, public indignation veered to the Spanish War, white slavery and the trusts.

Decline in Lynchings—As the years passed, America grew up; or so the man in the street thought and said. Mob butcheries fell off to half a score a year. Four years ago, they dropped to eight, the lowest figure ever recorded. Even some reformers believed that the problem would solve itself. But not the N. A. A. C. P., many of whose workers had had painful experience of the psychology behind hillbilly sadism.

Brushed aside by professional reformers, the Association concentrated its efforts on obtaining passage of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, which would make rope parties Federal offenses. Twice the bill was beaten; beaten, they said, because vote-wary Congressmen dared not ballot as they thought. Those who were inclined to dodge the issue pointed to the diminishing toll. The N. A. A. C. P. argued that the figure for 1932 was a fluke. They were right. In 1933 it rose to twenty-eight, then dropped to fifteen, rose again in 1935 to twenty-three. So far this year, six Negroes have died at the hands of mobs, and two white men have been slain by the Black Legion—"for the thrill."

So the Costigan-Wagner bill hangs fire. In States where lynchings have been most common in the past—Mississippi, with 545; Georgia, 502; Texas, 491; Louisiana, 383—it is charged, possibly in injustice to the present generation there, that there is a majority sentiment against the measure. In States where lynchings are virtually unknown—Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut, with none; Maine with one—the problem seems so remote that it is sometimes difficult to rouse the public to the pitch of circulating petitions.

But in the N. A. A. C. P. there are men who have seen the fires of hate dancing on the hillsides, have smelt the burning flesh of their kind, have gazed, transfixed with horror, into the twisted faces of thrill killers. They know that lynchings occur chiefly in sparsely settled areas, far from cities. Their carefully prepared records show that the bestial violence of night-riders flourishes almost in direct proportion to their poverty and provincialism. They know that in one of the South's 250 most thinly settled counties, a Negro is in sixty times as much danger as he would be in Atlanta or Birmingham. And they think this significant.

Also significant, perhaps—in that it indicates the widespread lack of understanding on the subject—is the fact that the term lynching is most generally associated with the South. California has had 42, Colorado, 68; Idaho 20; Kansas, 54, Montana, 84; Ohio, 26. But not recently; lariat stringings vanished with the horse thief in the Far West, pioneer justice went the way of the Middle West's pioneers. But for the Ku Klux Klan, even whippings, tarring and feathering and night-rides might have become horrors of the crude past.

Undoubtedly the spotlight falls on the South because of its large Negro population. But not all lynchings involve male Negroes as the victims and native-born Southern whites as the torturers. Mobs have strung up 1,293 whites. Ninety-four women have died with the howls of hoodlums ringing in their ears.

Nor does the argument that lynching is the only cure for interracial rape hold water. Only one-quarter of the 4,669 who have died were accused of sex crimes. A Tennessee Negro was hanged for slapping a white woman's face in a beer tavern. Others have gone to their deaths for bringing suits against whites, "trying to act like" whites, refusing to pay notes, acting as strikebreakers, "slandering" a President of the United States, disputing a white man's word, peeping, coming down with smallpox.

Evil Intensified—The rise of the Black Legion has dissipated the notion that here was a sectional problem, involving "only Negroes," and "on the wane anyway."

Efforts to strengthen the law have met with some success already. Seven States have enacted statutes making lynching a specific crime. Four more have statutory enactments against mob violence. Nine make provision for the removal of peace officers who fail to prevent lynchings.

On the other side of the picture, only eight-tenths of 1 per cent. of all lynchings in the United States since 1900 have been followed by convictions.

Since last May, the mob has not spoken. The N. A. A. C. P. would like to see the record kept clean. But the black and white flag is ready.

ST. LOUIS, MO.
POST DISPATCH

JUL 22 1936

HOW MANY JOE UREYS?

As police question Mark Wollner about the murder of Helen Clevenger at Asheville, it is explained that Joe Urey, a Negro bellboy, who had been arrested on suspicion, was released for lack of evidence. Joe Urey is fortunate. He is fortunate because he was not tried by lynch law. Lynch law observes no rules of evidence, it waits upon no deliberation. It hangs or burns or shoots without investigation. One wonders, upon reading of Joe Urey's release, how many Joe Ureys have been lynched for crimes they did not commit while the real murderers got away.

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WATERBURY, CONN.
REPUBLICAN

JUL 17 1936

Black Lynching Record

THE special case of Lint Shaw, saved once from lynching by a courageous judge, only to be captured by a mob and killed on the eve of his trial, together with agitation in favor of the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill, have served during recent months to keep steadily before the public eye the crime of extra-legal action in the South. With it has grown an impression that the docket of Judge Lynch's court had been specially crowded during the past half year.

However, a report from the Tuskegee Institute reveals the record for the first six months of 1936 as identical with the first six months of 1935 and showing two less lynchings than the six recorded for the first six months of 1934.

Of the four persons lynched up to July 1, 1936, all were Negroes. One of the lynchings occurred in Arkansas, three in Georgia. In two cases, the victims were charged with rape; in another, attempted rape; in the fourth, murder. Had these charges been sustained the court penalties would of course have been severe. But southern night riders weren't willing to have the matters referred to the courts or to await court action. The result was incidents which reflect heavily on the two commonwealths in which they occurred, and also on the nation.

It seems to us that at a time when lynching is a subject specially to the fore of the public consciousness, the Tuskegee Institute could profitably amplify its reports, especially with regard to what if any steps were taken to bring the lynchers to account. Even if such information took the form of a monotonously depressing story of consistent shirking of duty by the regularly constituted authorities, it would underline the moral the institute seeks to drive home.

Owensboro's Shameful Exhibition

EVERY American should blush with deepest shame at the sadistic orgy that took place in Owensboro, Ky., on Friday.

Twenty thousand people gathered there, making a carnival of the hanging of a young Negro. From his still warm body, they tore clothing and the death hood to keep as souvenirs.

Such events can still occur in a nation which calls itself "civilized." What makes the crime the greater was that the young Negro who was hanged had been unlawfully tried—by a jury from which Negroes were excluded.

To express shame at this act is not enough. The American people should be quickened to see that such vicious injustices to the Negro people are wiped out. In Kentucky this week another Negro, John Montjoy, is also to be hanged. There is talk of another fiendish exhibition—a public hanging, in which race prejudice, so destructive to the common people, will again be fanned.

Protests are pouring in to Governor "Happy" Chandler, demanding that he halt this public execution. Let such protests be increased from all corners of the country. Fascism feeds on spectacles such as these.

The exhibition at Owensboro, Ky., should emphasize to the common people of our country the need for fighting more diligently for the rights of the Negro. Such a fight is inseparable from the white workers' fight for freedom. Not only against these orgies, not only for the Negro's right to be tried by juries on which Negroes sit, but for that complete equality between Negro and white which is necessary to their common progress.

DOWN IN OLD KENTUCKY THE NATIVES SEEM to know what they like and to go in for it in a big way. The other day the inhabitants of Owensboro and surrounding points turned the official hanging of a Negro into a sort of legal lynching bee, and a pleasant time seems to have been had by all—all being so many thousand white, Nordic natives that the crowd, according to the *World-Telegram*, "spread out from the foot of the gallows . . . up the slope of a hill as far as the eye could see in the murky dawn light. Men and women stood on the roofs of surrounding buildings. Men and boys hung from telephone poles. Men and women leaned out of windows, stood on automobiles. There were even some on the roof of the hearse waiting to take the body away." Many of the citizens gave "hanging parties" the night before, and proceeded—not all entirely sober, it would appear—from private to public conviviality. It may or may not be considered a tribute to the delicacy of the police that "good-natured persons heated by drink were permitted to shout their pleasantries, but those who spoke out revengefully against the condemned man were suppressed." At the end there was a rush for the gallows inclosure by ghouls avid of souvenirs. Such is civilization in the commonwealth of Kentucky in this year of our Lord, 1936. And such is the American material ready to the hand of any fascist rabble-rouser. German papers please copy.

Labor Defense Calls Hanging Legal Lynching

The official mob-hanging of Rainey Bethea, 22-year-old Negro, in Owensboro, Ky., Friday, was denounced as a fiendish incitement of lynch-spirit, by Anna Damon, acting national secretary of the International Labor Defense yesterday. The I. L. D. called for protest to be directed to Governor Chandler, at Frankfort, Ky., against this barbarous act.

"The difference between the usual lynching and the lynching at Owensboro is purely a technical one," Mrs Damon said. "It was official, but officials participate in most lynchings. It followed a trial, but it was no more than a mock trial. "The action of Mrs. Florence Thompson, woman sheriff, was as vicious as that of any lynch-leader.

"The use which the reactionary press has made of this public and official lynching, in stirring up and inciting lynch-spirit, is precisely the use that all lynchings serve to all reactionaries. The National Executive Committee of the International Labor Defense urges all persons who abhor lynching to register their protest against this act of barbarism, by resolutions and letters of condemnation addressed to Governor B. Chandler, Frankfort, Ky."

Group in South Moves to Stop Mob-Hanging

By Edward Leavitt

CINCINNATI, Ohio., Aug. 17.—With Rainey Bethea, Owensboro, Ky., Negro, already put to death in a festival hanging witnessed by thousands, and the hanging of John '[illegible]' Montjoy, Covington Negro, scheduled, to take place in the Covington court-yard on Aug. 21, protest of white and Negro people in Kentucky and in bordering Ohio cities is being made by demands on Governor Chandler that Montjoy's sentence be commuted and that action be taken immediately to stop the spread of a wave of festival hangings and terrorism of Negroes in the State.

In Covington, Ky., a delegation of white and Negro citizens has been named to call on Governor Chandler with a last-minute plea while in Cincinnati, the American Civil Liberties Union, which fought Montjoy's case to the U. S. Supreme Court, has rallied community support behind the Covington group.

Both men were convicted of rape and both charged force and duress in obtaining a confession. In the Owensboro case a Federal court ruled that Bethea's confession was sufficient ground for conviction and in the Montjoy case the U. S. Supreme Court refused review on grounds that "no properly presented Federal question was involved."

An investigating committee composed of Dr. George Hedger and Mrs. Mary D. Brite of the American Civil Liberties Union, James T. Whitney of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and this correspondent, found that Montjoy had an unfair trial on the following grounds: confession gained by force, exclusion of Negroes from jury panels, improper defense by court-appointed attorneys, and no medical examination of the woman involved in the case, although ample opportunity for this existed.

The Montjoy defense groups in both States ask that letters and telegrams of protest be sent to Governor Chandler at Frankfort immediately.

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American Press
N.Y.
JAN 1936

Through Gas, Mobs and Lynchers For a Story

By PHILIP H. LOVE
Washington (D. C.) Star

THE aftermath of a lynching on the Eastern Shore of Maryland gave me my most thrilling assignment.

Victim of the lynching was a Negro, who had been arrested as suspect in a brutal attack on an elderly white woman near Princess Anne. A furious mob stormed the Princess Anne jail, overpowered the officers in charge, dragged the terrified colored man into the street and hanged him from the limb of a tree.

The local authorities declared themselves unable to identify any of the lynchers. The Governor ordered an investigation by state police, however, and the arrest of four reputable citizens, suspected members of the mob, followed.

News of the arrests traveled swiftly; and soon a crowd gathered, bent on freeing the prisoners. The Governor ordered out 300 members of the Maryland National Guard, who escorted the suspects to the Salisbury Armory and held them there, pending removal to Baltimore.

When Photographer Gus Chinn and I reached Salisbury, several thousand angry citizens were gathered outside the armory, shouting for release of the prisoners. Guardsmen were lined up in front of the entrance to the building, with fixed bayonets and wearing gas masks.

As we approached the armory after parking our automobile a couple of blocks away, the cry of "Gas!" went up, and the mob broke and scurried beyond reach of the tear-producing fumes.

Gasping, choking and spluttering, Chinn and I plunged through the billowing clouds of gas, only to be brought up short by a row of gleaming bayonets.

"Washington Star," I gasped. "We want to get inside the armory."

"Nothing doing," the nearest guardsman retorted. "Too many newspaper men in there already."

"But we've *got* to get in," Chinn broke in, exhibiting his camera. "We're really newspaper men—see?"

"Make 'em show a press card," another trooper interrupted. "If they've got one, let 'em pass."

Gratefully, we displayed our press cards. "O. K.," said the first guardsman, stepping aside.

As we mounted the steps of the armory, a crowd of civilians dragged a hose from the fire house across the street and turned the water on the troopers. The response was a barrage of tear-gas bombs; but, unfortunately, the wind blew most of the fumes back across the street and through the open doors and windows of the armory.

Inside were reporters and photographers from Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia, as well as another group of guardsmen, all suffering from the effects of the gas. Hastily, I gathered details for my story, then sought the telephone. Three or four others were ahead of me, however, and I had to wait 15 or 20 minutes. Meanwhile, the mob had taken to tossing bricks through the windows, and more and more gas was being blown inside.

When my turn at the 'phone finally came, I was cut short by the operator who explained she had an emergency call from the Governor for the National Guard commander.

This turned out to be a break for me, because I stood close enough to the officer to overhear his part of the conversation—which gave me quite a bit of information none of the other newshawks had.

By this time, the troopers, acting on the Governor's telephoned orders, were preparing to hustle the prisoners into busses and transfer them to Baltimore.

As the busses pulled out, most of the other newspaper men headed for the nearest hotel to 'phone their offices. Somehow, I had a feeling the crowd would attempt to vent its anger on the press after departure of the guardsmen; so, instead of accompanying the others to the hotel, Chinn and I made for our car, hopped in just as a portion of the mob was closing in on us, and sped out of town. We figured to kill two birds with one stone by going to an airport about eight miles distant, where Chinn could arrange to have his photographs flown to Washington while I dictated a new lead.

I had no sooner finished dictating than the 'phone rang. It was the man who owned the airport; he was in Salisbury, in the midst of all the action, and was calling to keep his assistant informed. With the additional information he gave me, I was able to add considerable detail to my story, especially as to what had happened after our flight from Salisbury.

The crowd had surrounded the hotel and demanded that all the newspaper men be turned out. When the manager refused to comply, the mob attempted to fire the building by tossing flaming balls of paper through open windows. Tiring of this, they began a round-up of newspaper men's automobiles, setting fire to some and pushing others into the river.

Meantime, Chinn and I remained at the airport, keeping in touch with the owner by 'phone and giving the office all the latest developments. After a couple of hours, however, the owner 'phoned a warning that the crowd had learned our whereabouts and was coming to get us. So, accompanied by another reporter and two photographers, Chinn and I cleared out.

Until late that night, we traveled over back roads and across fields, pausing occasionally to 'phone the airport owner, and then to relay the new information to the office. Along about midnight, after several narrow escapes, we landed in Georgetown, Del., where we spent the night.

Through most of the following day, our experiences were much the same as they had been—running, hiding, running again. We sneaked into Salisbury a couple of times, then headed for Princess Anne, where the prisoners were taken for arraignment late in the day. There we were fugitives, too—until a judge ordered the suspects freed for lack of evidence.

Then, strangely enough, everybody's sentiment changed. Instead of being hunted as criminals, newspaper men were sought as good fellows whom the town—not to mention all the surrounding community—wanted to slap on the back and, in general, entertain royally. And, believe it or not, most of us actually had a dickens of a time getting away from there!

COLUMBIA, MO.
MISSOURIAN

Mob Rule

WBOYS have learned to drive [illegible] buggies and miners now use steam s[illegible]els, but many Americans still take the law into their own hands as in pioneer and frontier days.

Andre Siegfried, who lectured in Columbia last fall, points out in "America Comes of Age" that this tradition of direct action has never disappeared. He cites as examples the activities of the Ku Klux Klan, the mistreatment of Negroes and the expulsion of members of the International Workers of the World in various parts of the United States.

Two weeks ago about a hundred self-identified war veterans raided a Communist college in Seattle, striking students with clubs and blackjacks. Five persons, said to be teachers in the school, were arrested, but none of the raiders was even held.

Twenty persons were lynched in the United States last year, an increase of 33 per cent over 1934, according to figures announced by F. D. Patterson, president of the Tuskegee Institute. Eighteen were Negroes and two were whites. In addition, eighty-four persons were saved by officers from harm at the hands of mobs.

Most Americans agree that this type of lawlessness should be eliminated. Action should be taken through due process of law. But how are we going to remove this hangover from frontier days?

New laws won't do any good. We already have laws, but they are usually not enforced because public opinion is not behind them and is sometimes behind the mobs.

Public opinion, then, is obviously our need. We must develop a public opinion that will stand for law and order against mob rule. This respect for law can only be developed slowly as a growth. Law enforcing bodies must be cleaned up so that they can command respect. Our slow moving judicial system must be improved. When the public has confidence in and respect for the law, it will force the police to arrest lynchers.

Emotionalism will still sway the crowds. But mob leaders will think twice before arousing the herd if they see a possible jail sentence before them.

GLENS FALLS, N. Y.
TIMES

FEB 11 1936

POETIC JUSTICE

Poetic justice has overtaken Carl Fisher of Missouri. Fisher faces a sentence of two years in the penitentiary for attempting to assault a woman. There would be nothing unusual in that were it not for the curious fact that two years ago Fisher was the leader of a mob that lynched a negro who was accused of the same offense. He served a year in jail for his part in the lynching. Now that he must serve two years in jail for the crime that he deemed a negro must die for he will have ample opportunity for reflection. Possibly he will wonder whether lynching was after all the punishment that fitted the negro's alleged crime.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
RECORD
FEB 20 1936

A Blow at Legal Lynchings

Not all the lynchings in the South are the work of raging mobs, hastily formed.

The "legal lynching" is an even greater menace than the illegal lynching. It quiets objection by casting the forms of law around what is really mob murder. The Supreme Court unanimously delivers a blow at legal lynchings by its decision in the case of three Mississippi Negroes.

The law, not the mob, took these Negroes in hand. With a deputy sheriff and two other officers present, the Negroes were stripped naked and whipped with a rubber strap to which metal buckles were attached. One was hanged from a tree for a time. The treatment continued until they "confessed" the murder of a white man. That confession was accepted for evidence and they were tried and sentenced to death.

The court set aside the sentences, declaring: "The State may not permit an accused to be hurried to conviction under mob domination, where the whole proceeding is but a mask . . . the rack and torture chamber may not be substituted for the witness stand."

It is to be hoped that Southern courts will revise their practices in the light of that decision, and that victims of third-degree methods everywhere will make use of it.

PORTLAND, ME.
EXPRESS

FEB 17 1936

ANTI-LYNCHING

Over the radio, Saturday evening, came a debate on the merits of the Anti-Lynching Bill now before Congress. Such a bill has been advocated for years because of the deplorable record of this Country, improved, it is true, over what it used to be, but still bad enough to call for some kind of action.

In 1935, 20 persons were lynched; in 1934, 15; 1933, 28; in 1932, eight. Of the 20 victims of 1935, 13 were in the hands of the law; five were taken from jails two were shot within jails, and six taken from law officers outside of jails. Officers prevented lynchings in 53 cases, nine of them in Northern states. Two of the lynched were whites, 18, Negroes.

Something must be done, friends of a Federal anti-lynching law state, to bring America's record up to that of other less essentially lawless countries. Something, of course, already has been done; lynchings are fewer now than they were some years ago; it is a hopeful sign when Southern officers of the law prevent as many as 44 lynching bees in a year. But to suppose that a Federal law would help is probably vain.

In the first place, Federal interposition could come only in the event that lynching parties crossed state boundaries. Inasmuch as these lynchings are for the most part local affairs, there is precluded the possibility of enacting a suitable law in Congress. Any other law putting the power of Government G-Men in the field would be, as Senator Borah pointed out courageously and, it must be believed, correctly, to Negro hecklers of his recent Brooklyn speech, an invasion of States Rights, and unconstitutional. The only sound solution of the problem is the growth of public sentiment hostile to lynching. Of the growth of such sentiment there is some evidence.

NEW YORK SUN
FEB 17 1936

Borah and Lynching

A Negro Educator's Calm View of the Senator's Attitude.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* William E. Borah has declared himself a candidate for the presidential nomination on the Republican ticket. The Idaho Senator's outspoken utterance on the floor of the Senate against the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill undoubtedly precipitated the defeat of that ill-fated measure. Although this opposition is hypothecated wholly upon constitutional grounds, still his position has aroused the animosity of the colored race, which threatens reprisal at the polls. Walter White, the dynamic secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, admonished Senator Borah, far in advance of his declared candidacy, that his position on the anti-lynching question would cause his defeat as aspirant for the presidency in 1936 because he had thus alienated every Negro voter in the country. This threat put the doughty Senator on his mettle and the challenge was resented with defiance. The Senator was emboldened to assert flatly that, if by any unexpected good hap he should become President of the United States, he would veto any anti-lynching bill of the Costigan-Wagner type should it be presented to him with the approval of both houses of Congress.

No one who is acquainted with Senator Borah's fearless and outspoken attitude on all public issues will be disposed to question his honesty and genuineness on the constitutionality of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill. He took precisely the same position on its prototype, the Dyer anti-lynching bill, fifteen years ago. Senator Borah, like Abraham Lincoln, is a strict constitutionalist and believes that all reforms, however imperative, should be worked out within the framework of the Constitution.

It is also but fair to Senator Borah to state that he is unalterably opposed to the practice of lynching and is ready and willing to unite with any feasible and constitutional means of getting rid of the national iniquity. It is to be hoped that the Idaho Senator might be induced to devote his deep constitutional knowledge and his high prestige and long experience to devising some constructive, effective proposal instead of dramatizing his opposition to measures which he regards as neither constitutional nor effective.

Mr. Knox, another aspirant for the presidential nomination, has declared his intention to support the Costigan-Wagner bill, although his attitude was not announced prior to his candidacy. Thus, unfortunately, the question of lynching is made a political issue. Senator Borah was heckled at a public meeting in Brooklyn by his Negro auditors, intent upon embarrassing him on this question.

It is unfortunate that the lynching evil is made either a racial, sectional or political issue. Negro leaders take the aggressive in sponsoring anti-lynching proposals because the colored race contributes the majority of its victims. However, there have been 1,500 white victims of the mob during the last fifty years; quite a sufficient number to arouse the whole nation to the enormity of this iniquity had there not been a single Negro victim. Lynching is but the most virulent expression of lawlessness. The white race controls the machinery of the law and it is its duty to uphold and defend the majesty of the law regardless of the racial variety of the victims of lawlessness.

Nor can lynching be fairly regarded as a sectional problem, for while the majority of these heinous perpetrations have taken place in the South, yet the North and West can by no means claim exemption. There are only four or five States in the Union in which the blood of mob victims does not cry unto the God of Justice from the ground. The problem, therefore, is neither racial nor sectional but nationwide.

There are enough issues to divide the political parties in the impending campaign without injecting these horrible lynchings which cause every patriotic American, regardless of race, section or party, to hang his head in shame.

KELLY MILLER.

Howard University,
Washington, D. C. February 15.

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NORTHAMPTON, MASS.
GAZETTE

MAY 1 - 1936

LYNCH LAW

A Georgia Negro, who was about to go on trial charged with criminal assault, was taken from jail early Tuesday morning by a band of men, and hanged. The authorities apparently had done what they could to prevent this manifestation of mob law, moving the prisoner to another jail when a crowd began to surround the jail where he had been confined. But the men learned of the Negro's new place of imprisonment, and forced their way into the jail to seize him.

On Wednesday, a band of masked men wrested an Arkansas Negro from officers, and shot him to death. The man was described as a "half-witted" petty thief, who was accused of a crime against a woman. Perhaps both Negroes were guilty of the crimes for which they were soon to face trial, and would have been given severe sentences anyway. This, however, is hardly any excuse for the lynchings. Besides being lawless and anti-social, the practice of taking the law into one's own hands is liable to result in a serious miscarriage of justice.

Such a mistake was narrowly averted about a month ago in Alabama, after a young girl had been attacked and killed while returning alone from a motion picture show. Bloodhounds led a mob to four Negroes, and the enraged lynching party was just about to hang all four suspects, when sheriff's deputies arrived and rescued the Negroes, lodging them in jail.

The deputies were not satisfied with the evidence offered by the fact that the bloodhounds had apparently tracked the suspects from the scene of the crime to the place where they were found. A huge footprint, indicating a size 11 shoe, had been found near the girl's body, and none of the four Negroes had shoes of that size. The authorities broadcast the description of a large Negro whom they thought might be connected with the crime. A few weeks later he was picked up in Terre Haute, Ind., and confessed that he alone killed the Alabama girl.

"Bloodhound evidence" is not necessarily conclusive, and in this instance might easily have resulted in the killing of four innocent men, had it not been for the timely arrival of the sheriff's deputies. But one cannot hope to reason with a mob that is demanding vengeance, and it is pretty certain that if one member of the potential lynching party had noticed the size of the footprint, and urged the rest of the mob to refrain from hanging the four Negroes until an investigation were made, he would have been shouted down.

Every person accused of an offense against the law is supposed to be entitled to a fair trial, regardless of how revolting the crime may be. There is something about lynch law that is repellent to every fair-minded American. It leads to a disrespect for the law and the authorities, and strikes justified terror into the hearts of those who are innocent, yet may become the victims of an infuriated, heedless mob. Some supporters of lynching maintain that it "puts the fear of God" into residents of the section where such a form of retribution occurs. It might be more accurate to say that this flouting of the law breeds further lawlessness, and creates an intolerable situation in which terrorism is substituted for justice.

N. Y. EVENING POST

MAY 1 - 1936

Just Two Days Later

Yesterday we called attention to the fact that if we were to write an editorial for every lynching that occurs in the South we should have to compose such a protest every twenty days.

That's only an average figure. The actual interval between lynchings is often briefer. On Monday a mob killed a Negro at Royston, Ga. On Wednesday another mob killed another Negro at Lepanto, Ark. Both Negroes were merely *charged* with crimes, convicted of nothing.

Will Congress pass the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill? Will it provide for punishment by Federal authorities of such mobs as those at Royston and Lepanto? Or will it leave the punishment up to the neighbors of the mob leaders—and leave us to the hopeless job of getting the next piece ready for type within the next three weeks?

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
TIMES

APR 29 1936

THE LAW LOSES AGAIN

ON April 11, 74-year-old Judge Berry T. Moseley (may his tribe increase) got up out of a sick bed in Danielsville, Ga., and saved the life of a Negro by deputizing 100 members of the mob that was storming the jail with murderous intent.

"Stop violating the law," the judge thundered. They stopped, and the Negro was moved under their protection to safety—for a time. Yesterday the same Negro's dead body was found riddled with bullets and tied to a pine tree.

This lynching adds another to the bloody record of the recent past. In a report called "The Mob Still Rides," the Commission on Inter-racial Co-operation found that 84 persons have been lynched since 1931. Of these, nine were accused of no crime, 25 of minor offenses, only nine of rape. Indictments were returned against lynchers in only one lynching out of 12, convictions resulted in one out of 30, and in few cases was the punishment severe. Peace officers participated in several of these affairs and "connived at many more."

If any more evidence were needed than this record to convince Congress of the need of a Federal anti-lynching law, the latest Georgia outrage should furnish it. The evidence is that if Southern Congressmen had as much political courage as that one Southern judge revealed, the Federal remedy for lynching could be applied.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
NEWS

APR 29 1936

THE LAW LOSES AGAIN

ON April 11, 74-year-old Judge Berry T. Moseley (may his tribe increase) got up out of a sick bed in Danielsville, Ga., and saved the life of a Negro, by deputizing 100 members of the mob that was storming the jail with murderous intent.

"Stop violating the law," the judge thundered. They stopped, and the Negro was moved under their protection to safety—for a time. Yesterday the same Negro's dead body was found riddled with bullets and tied to a pine tree.

This lynching adds another to the bloody record of the recent past. In a report called "The Mob Still Rides," the Commission on Interracial Co-operation found that 84 persons have been lynched since 1931. Of these, nine were accused of no crime, 25 of minor offenses, only nine of rape. Indictments were returned against lynchers in only one lynching out of 12, convictions resulted in one out of 30, and in few cases was the punishment severe. Peace officers participated in several of these affairs and "connived at many more."

If any more evidence were needed than this record to convince Congress of the need of a Federal anti-lynching law, the latest Georgia outrage should furnish it. The evidence is that if southern congressmen had as much political courage as that one southern judge revealed, the Federal remedy for lynching could be applied.

ST. LOUIS, MO.
STAR TIMES

APR 29 1936

KILLED BY "PERSONS UNKNOWN."

The courage shown by a 74-year-old judge on April 11 at Royston, Ga., when he prevented the lynching of a Negro, is just about equaled by the cowardice of the night chief of police in the same town on April 27, and by the laxity of state officials who sent the prisoner back from Atlanta to be lynched on the eve of his trial. Leaving the jail guarded by one man, after the previous attempt at violence, looked like an invitation to the mob to try again, and they did.

This disgraceful affair was no act under the sudden heat inspired by learning of a brutal crime. The victim was to have been tried at once and Georgia law could have been relied on to give him all, or more than, he deserved. It was plain lust for blood on the part of the mob, which did not care whether justice or injustice was done in court or outside. The entire state suffers a smirch on its reputation as a civilized community, but forty men composing the mob have had their murderous sport. The coroner's jury finds death was caused by "persons unknown" and quiet settles on Royston till the mob finds an excuse for breaking forth again. Since there is no community protest, the forty must have represented public sentiment. Education is the only cure for that, though in Georgia it seems almost incurable.

PATERSON, N. J.
NEWS

APR 25 1936

Rabbi Discusses Racial Uprisings

Blames Arab Politicians, Nazi Provocations, British Policy

"The Jews and the Arabs of Palestine", was the subject of a discourse by the Rabbi Max Raisin last night at the Barnert Memorial temple.

Speaking of British rule, he said;

"It has been shown again and again that pogroms and race riots never take place except where the government wants them, or conducts a policy which directly leads to them. This thought could be applied to our Southern States where, if the governments really wanted it, there would be no Negro lynchings. The anti-Jewish pogroms in Russia occurred only because the Czars favored them as a useful means of diverting the rath of the enslaved masses from themselves. Today there are bloody pogroms against the Jews in Poland because the policy of the Polish government makes it possible. On the other hand no such pogroms have as yet taken place in Nazi Germany, though the Jew there is utterly helpless and defenceless, because the Nazi chieftains regard such massacres as disadvantageous to themselves. They have evolved a more refined and in a sense a more cruel way of exterminating the Jew in their midst.

"Great Britain administers Palestine by mandate or grant from the League of Nations for the express purpose that she help the Jews to build up the country as a national homeland for the Jewish people. This means chiefly two things: a large Jewish migration into Palestine, and the acquisition of as much land as possible, through purchase, by the Jews settling there. But the British colonial policy has steadily placed great difficulties in the way of both immigration and land buying.

"The Arabs have again and again come forward with impossible demands. Instead of frowning upon these demands, which nullify the Balfour declaration and the mandate provisions, the British administration rather encouraged them. And recently the British Lord High Commissioner himself, Sir Wauchope, came out with a project to establish in Palestine a legislative council, a sort of parliament, where the Arab representatives would outnumber the Jews two to one, and thus at once nullify the letter and the spirit of the Jewish homeland project.

"The British colonial rulers seem to be laboring under the fear that it might prove disadvantageous to England to have the Jews entrench themselves in Palestine and become numerous enough to some day take over the government of the land. But they seem to forget that the Jews constitute the most loyal and dependable element the British could find in that country. The real source of danger to British interests lies with the Arabs and not with the Jews. The old worn-out policy of "Divide and rule" will not help the British but is sure to aggravate matters for them with the passing of time.

"The Jew cannot be driven from Palestine, nor kept out of this land of his fathers. It is the one ray of light for millions of our unhappy people, and it is a hope that must not be extinguished. Nehemiah built the Second temple "with a brick in one hand and a sword in the other." In the midst of clashes and pogroms against which he will have to defend himself, the Jew will go on with this great historical task to reacquire the land of his people by just and peaceful means, through hard work and many sacrifices, that it may become a fit place for happy and peaceful living for his children and all generations yet to be born."

WASHINGTON, D. C.
POST

APR 18 1936

Lynching Foes Again Refused Petition Study

House Caucus Chairman Says Only Gavagan Bill Will Be Accepted.

Leaders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People were frustrated again yesterday in their attempt to have the House Democratic caucus consider an anti-lynching bill, when Caucus Chairman Edward T. Taylor (Democrat), Colorado, announced from his sickbed he would accept no anti-lynch petition except from Representative Gavagan (Democrat), New York, whose Harlem district embraces a large Negro population.

Gavagan, meanwhile, is in California for the Bell committee, checking up on the Towensend old-age pension movement, and no date has been set for his return, although it was believed in some quarters Gavagan would return to the Capital late next week.

Gertrude Stone, executive board member of the District of Columbia branch of the N. A. A. C. P. professed to see something more than a coincidence in Gavagan's continued absence and in Chairman Taylor's refusal to entertain a petition submitted by anyone but Gavagan.

"We all know," Miss Stone said, "that the House Democratic leaders are unalterably opposed to a caucus on this subject. Despite the fact that we have more than enough names of House members on our petition, a policy of delay has been pursued throughout. And the longer the delay the slimmer becomes the anti-lynching bill's chances for consideration this session."

Representative Taylor's office disavowed insinuations made by the N. A. A. C. P. that Gavagan is being purposely kept away from Washington. His secretary admitted freely, however, that Chairman Taylor believes an anti-lynch caucus would be entirely futile. Taylor's attitude is seconded by Speaker Byrns and by Democratic Majority Leader Bankhead.

Fifteen identical anti-lynch bills have been introduced in the House this session. A petition signed by 37 House Democrats seeks to bring one of these bills up for consideration by the Democratic caucus.

COLUMBUS, O.
DISPATCH

MAY 29 1936

Lynching Crimes Must Be Stopped

Sir: There is little doubt but the most atrocious and blackest crime in American history is that of lynching. It is a crime that has gone on for years without bringing to justice the cruel perpetrators. In less than 50 years more than 5000 human beings have been put to death by bloodthirsty mobs. Negroes have been the greatest sufferers.

Year after year for a number of years, anti-lynching bills have been introduced usually in the lower house, but defeated in the senate. What will be the result of the Mitchell bill which is now before the house is difficult to conjecture, but will meet with bitter opposition in the senate, if such men as Borah speak against it, as he did when a former bill came up, known as the Costigan-Wagner bill.

A man who in any sense whatever will oppose an anti-lynching measure is ringing a death-knell against righteousness and justice, and ignoring God's command "Thou Shalt Not Kill." We do not hesitate to say that the individual who stands out against the anti-lynching law that is up for passage, may well be identified with the mob, for they encourage such crime.

The lynching of human beings in this country, has been tolerated too long and something must be done to check such outrageous work. If I have the matter correct, there are at this time about 30 anti-lynching bills in the hands of the judiciary committee, one of these bills is the Mitchell bill, and should be favorably considered. While there is considerable sentiment among members of congress in favor of the passage of an anti-lynching bill, there is strong opposition to any such bill.

R. H. Griffith,
Thornville, Ohio.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
AMERICA

MAY 16 1936

Seventy-Two Lynchings

A TELEGRAM sent to President Roosevelt on April 30, by Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and recently appointed editor of the *Crisis* magazine, called attention to the fact that since the President took office on March 4, 1933, there have occurred seventy-two authenticated lynchings. The last two were at Colbert, Ga., and at Lepanto, Ark., on April 28 and 29 respectively. These killings by mobs have occurred at an average of one every fifteen and one-half days during these three years. "During this period," says Mr. Wilkins, "as in previous years the State and local governments have demonstrated conclusively that they are unable or unwilling to curb lynching by arresting and punishing leaders and members of mobs. Since January 19 the Government has had it within its power to pass a Federal anti-lynching law but thus far the Costigan-Wagner bill has been sidetracked." In the United States Senate, the Van Nuys resolution providing for a senatorial investigation of lynchings in 1935 has been deadlocked, while action is being sought in the House. Chances are slim for any action in a presidential year. In the meanwhile, this grisly evil goes on. Besides the actual lynchings there were 102 cases of very narrowly averted lynchings in the time specified. Those who are striving desperately for legislation to avert the curse of lynching deserve a generous support.

Lynchings-1936
Discussion.

Negro Press, Northern.

5289

U. S. Inspection Reveals Why Mobs Are Able to Break into Dixie Jails

Afro-American

WASHINGTON, (ANP).—One of the reasons mobs find it so easy to break into jails was revealed here, last week, when Federal inspectors, seeking lockups to hold U.S. prisoners, condemned forty-four per cent of those they visited as unfit. 7-4-36

Jails in Alabama and Mississippi, typical of the South where mobs run rampant, showed 26 in Alabama rating between 50 and 59 per cent, and 42 under 50 per cent, while in Mississippi 10 were between 50 and 59 per cent and 67 rated less than 50 per cent.

The local jails were not judged on the high standards required of Federal institutions, but on requirements thought necessary for safekeeping persons over short periods, Director of the Bureau of Prisons Sanford Bates declared. The government houses in local jails some prisoners awaiting trials for serving short terms.

Bates attributes poor conditions to the fee system under which a sheriff is paid on the basis of the number of men in a jail, runs the prison from the fees, and pockets the rest of the cash.

The Worm Turns

A generation ago one or two little Negro papers pleaded for law enforcement. "Lynch law must go" thundered John Mitchell in his Richmond Planet. The American people never heard him, but turned a complacent ear to Pitchfork Tillman who told the world from the floor of the United States senate, that lynching was all right. Today every newspaper in the land, appalled by the departure of the Lindberghs whose children here were the targets of unrestrained crime, is asking that lawlessness be tracked down.

The connection between the conditions now and formerly when only Negroes were the sufferers is close. All disrespect for law springs from the same roots. Left alone when its victims were humble, it gathered force. Courts became insensible to law violations. Officials grew lax. The public is now callous. Even though killings are done for a thrill or kidnapings for ransom, no lively conscience insists upon arrest and conviction. Crimes punishable by death draw only prison sentences quickly followed by parole.

The American people who in the nation's early day took pride in stern justice and absolute obedience to law count it the smart thing to flout that same law today. The underworld is now the upper crust.

Imagine a convicted kidnaper like Hauptmann being an object of wide concern and financial aid in any other country than this! Absent, Lindbergh may be more potent in arousing a desire for justice in this country than if he had stayed

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The destiny of black America cannot be properly determined nor the desired results obtain- by giving their unanimous support to either the two major parties. They must learn to vide their votes under intelligent leadership their own choosing in states where their right suffrage has not been denied them through e criminal conspiracy of a vicious political igarchy.

SENATOR BORAH MAKES STATEMENT

Senator William E. Borah, one of the Presidential possibilities of the 1936 Republican convention, speaking in Brookland last week, asked his hecklers why pick on him with respect to his attitude on the anti-lynching bill? Why not prepare a platform and present a copy of it to each of the political parties and urge its adoption in their respective convention, was the polite advice given by the Senator.

This was sound advice but it will not be heeded in any united effort. We are long on conversation but short on mass action. We are still hampered by a leaderless leadership. We have a lot of smart men, but they are too smart to follow any one of their own leaders. We are op heavy with a brilliancy which does not relect anything.

Our leaders throughout the country are busy n an effort to handle the various candidates' noney. Little can be accomplished by a leaderhip which continuously looks for the smoke ouse, in other words, whose appetite takes preedence over their better judgment. It is about ime for a leadership to come forward who can o into their pockets and finance the election f delegates in their districts and then go to the espective conventions with a voice sustained y a vote.

We are not going to impress our views upon ny candidates so long as we continue to pass ie cup around. Beggars cannot command much espect. Heckling candidates will not solve our roblems. Go into Congressional districts in hich you live and help to elect men and woen to Congress who believe in your cause.

The ballot is the most powerful weapon to eckle with. Borah's silence on lynching may rove to be of more value in the event of his ection than some other candidate's words bere the election. For the past half century the ghts and privileges of black people insofar words go have in every presidential year en made the political sporting event of candates seeking office.

It is time to stop bartering in human rights r political purposes. Only one Republican resident in the past fifty years has had the urage to take the position and maintain his nvictions that the American black man should ceive the same consideration as other Ameran citizens. That was Theodore Roosevelt.

LYNCHING—CRIME OR A PLAN?

THREE items in the news of the week bring us again to the stark realization that the American nightmare—Lynching—is still with us. From the "sovereign" state of Georgia, on the heels of the announcement of a new offensive against lynching by the Commission on Interracial Cooperation at Atlanta, comes the challenging answer of Georgia savages that they have just "discovered" the body of Phillip Baker, 35 year old Negro, riddled with bullets, hanging at ropes-end from the always convenient tree. Baker was "accused" of attacking two white women.

In Washington, Senator James F. Byrnes, chairman of the committee on audit and control, remains still adamant in his refusal to call a meeting of the committee to consider even the grossly inadequat appropriation of $7500 for a Senate investigation of lynchings of last year. Senator Byrnes, aside from being known as the spokesman for the White House in the Senate is more definitely representative of another "sovereign" state—South Carolina. 3-20-36

Although it is significant that the leaders in lynching are "the lowest ranking states in wealth and culture" we are not so prone as hitherto to conclude that lynching is a crime born of ignorance or intense hatreds. The attitude of men like Senator Byrnes, a cultured, educated, southern representative, and those hundreds like him who are fighting against any and all legislation that might tend to destoy the south's "freedom of the rope and gun" smacks more of organized economic exploitation of a minority group than of sudden lust-crazed action.

"The Negro must be kept in his place"

is both southern religion and southern necessity, looking at it from the viewpoint of the southern industrialist and plantation owner. When the Negro becomes enlightened (and he is becoming enlightened despite the inferior schools and short terms in southern states) he is harder to exploit. He no longer takes for granted, the myth of "white supremacy" so it must be impressed upon him with rope and gun; with smoke and flame, and in slightly more "civilized" communities, with even more shameful "legal-lynching" in a southern courtroom in the presence of appreciative witnesses.

So long as political expediency plays so large a part in the conduct of our government and the framing of our laws; so long as the Negro remains a negligible factor in the affairs of his government partly through his minority position, but more largely through his lassitude and inaction in things political; just so long will he have to resort to that now familiar dirge of a people, either too sick or too spineless to fight with every remaining resource at their command.

"How Long, Oh Lord, How Long!"

FREDERICKSBURG, VA.
FREE LANCE-STAR

MAR 18 1936

"The Mob Still Rules."

The Commission on Interracial Cooperation paints a dark picture of lynching in its aptly titled pamphlet, "The Mob Still Rules," in which are summarized the 84 instances of mob murder in the United States during the past five years. The black shadows are relieved only by the fact that lynchings have declined from a yearly average of 124 in 1900 to 17 for the past decade.

Since there is no room for reason in a lynch-bent mob, it is not surprising to learn from the illuminating booklet that 41 per cent of the 84 victims were either unaccused of crime or were charged with minor offenses; and of the other 59 per cent many were innocent.

The belief is generally held that a majority of lynchings are the results of assault upon women. That the notion is only true in a small degree is shown by the commission's revelation that but one-fourth of the lynching victims were charged ed with actual or attempted assault.

The commission found that some peace officers successfully resisted or outwitted mobs, while others connived at or participated in lynchings. It does not state the belief of this newspaper that nearly all instances of lawless bands of citizens meting out their own brand of justice could be prevented if officers quickly hustled the suspects away from the vicinity of the crime.

Newspaper reports do not tell whether the Commission attributes many lynchings to economic causes but it is undoubtedly true that they are influential. Reliable observers declare that people are more easily inflamed when they are least prosperous. These are indirect factors and very difficult to trace. However, it has been noted that when the principal crop of a section has failed or when prices for it decline the number of lynchings incerase. The incitability of the people is unquestionably at a high point as they grow morose and dissatisfied.

It is regrettable to state but lynching is still mainly a Southern occupation and a racial phenomenon. Its practice probably would have been lessened by Federal legislation against it, but only public opinion can outlaw it altogether.

LEXINGTON, KY.
HERALD

MAR 14 1936

The True Facts on Lynchings

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching has made an appeal to the press to investigate fully the facts regarding lynchings before the stories submitted by local correspondents are published.

In support of its appeal, the society cited seven lynchings for capital crimes, eleven for minor offenses and one for no legal cause in 1935, and indicated that the news accounts of several of these lynchings were inaccurate.

Jessie Daniel Ames, executive director of the society, says that the editors of almost all of the great dailies in the South are united editorially in efforts to discourage lynchings, but declares that news stories, written by local correspondents who are influenced by local public opinion, sometimes are contrary to the newspapers' editorial policies.

Lynchings in Kentucky are almost a thing of the past, but the newspapers of the South might well accept this appeal as a challenge to pay the strictest attention to the facts whenever one of these regrettable incidents occurs.

Mob executions inevitably lessen respect for law and order and defeat the ends of justice; and distortion of facts regarding lynchings and the circumstances under which they occur are certain to aid in perpetuation of a practice that fortunately is becoming less frequent as the years go by, but still is a blot on the escutcheon of the South.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX.
EXPRESS

MAR 16 1936

"THE MOB STILL RIDES"

By its critical study of the five-year lynching record and the conclusions embodied in its report ("The Mob Still Rides"), the research department conducted by the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, in Atlanta, has contributed greatly to popular understanding of a sharp social and civic problem.

As the Commission was convinced that "the lynching habit is rooted in the widely prevalent belief that lynching is necessary and justifiable," it undertook to answer that opinion by obtaining and publishing the facts.

The theory underlying the research is that if the people (the mass of whom believe in law and order) knew all the facts back of mob crimes, they would demand effective measures to eradicate this blot upon American civilization.

Certainly the facts summarized in the Commission's report are startling enough to arouse popular indignation:

Of the 84 persons lynched during the past five years, 41 per cent had been accused merely of minor offenses against the law or social convention.

Among the 59 per cent accused of serious crimes, many were actually innocent; and but one in four was charged with attack, or attempted attack, upon women—the "usual crime" for which the victim, if a Negro, supposedly is hanged or burned.

The Commission's field representatives investigated numerous such charges after the event, and in many cases could find no convincing evidence that the mob had got the right man. On the other hand, proof that some innocent persons had been lynched was conclusive.

The inquiry brought out the fact—commonly known and accepted in the "lynching belt"—that peace officers sometimes take part in mob murders. Grand jury investigations of mob outrages are perfunctory; indictments are exceptional and convictions rare.

However, the Commission long has awarded medals to sheriffs and other officers whose courage and resourcefulness in facing mob threats have prevented numerous lynchings. To mitigate the evil, more officers of such caliber, an adequate State police force, stronger jails and more machine-guns for jailers' use in emergency are required.

Though sound policy would dictate punishing the community that tolerates lynching—as the Dyer (Federal) Bill proposed 18 years ago—enacting such legislation is obviously impracticable. As a substitute, the Commission recommends elevating the cultural standards of the lynching belt. Only an enlightened public opinion finally will eradicate the evil.

No Comment Needed

WE PRESENT, without comment, excerpts from three stories which appeared in last week's The Amsterdam News: 3-28-36

"CUSSETA, Ga., March 19.—Negro residents of Chattahoochee county today held little hope that enforcement authorities will arrest any person for the lynching of Phillip Baker, 35, who was shot and hanged here early Saturday morning. The lynching victim was to go on trial for alleged assault upon a white woman. . . .

"The Chattahoochee grand jury issued a statement Tuesday saying that no evidence of the identity of the lynchers was on hand and described the mob murder as a 'deplorable affair.'"

"ATLANTA, March 19.—Declaring that 'the mob still rides,' the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, composed of both Negroes and whites, on Sunday suggested federal action to stamp out lynching."

"WASHINGTON, March 19.—The Senate Judiciary Committee's resolution authorizing an investigation of the lynchings of 1935 is languishing in the Committee on Audit Control and Senator James F. Byrnes of South Carolina is being blamed for the delay...The appropriation is regarded by all informed persons as being far too small for an adequate investigation of lynchings, but apparently Chairman Byrnes does not want even the small amount of $7,500 appropriated.

"All supporters of the bill are being urged to write their congressmen in the House of Representatives, urging them to support any move which may be proposed to have the House act on the anti-lynching bill."

Lynchings-1936
6
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

5290

Selma, Ala. Times
April 15. 1936

LYNCHING IN THE SOUTH

"Alabama set the standard. Determined to scotch lynching, its oficers prevented a mob from doing in the Scottsboro "boys." The multifarious troubles and expenses that that forthright action brought in its train did not shake the determination of Alabama to keep the state's record clean. Only a week or two ago the police battered a mob and saved for lawful trial four negroes charged with the murder of a white girl at Huntsville.

"Georgia borders Alabama to the east, and apparently the example set by its neighbor has put the authorities of Georgia, too, on their mettle. A man accused of rape was jailed in Dainesville Saturday, but before the mob could break in and get him the National Guard put in its appearance, forced through the crowd and took the prisoner off for safekeeping. Their efforts were aided by those of the local judge and local sheriff, a clear indication that there is some public support for the anti-lynching movement.

"We note the event in the hope that it augurs well for the future."—Baltimore Sun.

Let us all hope. There never has been any sympathy for the mob in the South, except in the mob itself, or among potential recruits for the mob. All educated, right-thinking Southerners are grieved by these resorts to brute force in racial conflicts, but as yet they do not possess the power to end them. May the day of entire responsibility of good citizens for the peace and well-being of both races not be long in coming.

Roanoke, Ala., Leader
April 15. 1936

A SICKENING TRAGEDY AND ITS OBVIOUS LESSON

It is painful to make any sort of reference to the horrible tragedy occurring in the cultured City of Huntsville when a young lady was attacked and brutally murdered. It is important, however, to note that the guilty Negro admits that he had bought some whiskey which fired his brain and led to the commission of the crime.

This was an illegal sale. Perhaps all will admit that the one who sold the beverage is jointly responsible with the murderer, in a moral sense. Then why should he not be so held legally? If the sale had been made on the authority of state and city license, as a coterie of desperate wets in and out of the Legislature is seeking to have made possible, would not the city and the state issuing such license become particeps criminis, in fact if not in law, for any crime growing out of such sale?

Legalizing the sale of liquor means more alcohol consumed and more crimes and tragedies of all sorts as a result. And who is responsible in the first place? The question answers itself.

The fact that the crime referred to sprang from the sale of illicit liquor is beside the point except to emphasize the need for a united effort to stamp out the traffic in its entirety. The big thing, the outstanding point, is that booze is the main source of almost all our crime and tragedy. All who sponsor, all who patronize and keep alive this great destroying monster, Alcohol, in its beverage form must assume a part of the responsibilty for its fruits. This is as true as that effect follows cause, and that "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Shall the State of Alabama sow grog shops to becloud the brains and fire the passions of hordes of ignorant Negroes and depraved white men and send them out to prey upon the helpless victims of their lust?

The thought seems incredible, but that is just what is involved. How can any man be recreant to his duty in the face of such a situation?

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
April 8, 1936

THE MOB IS WRONG

Several days ago when a Huntsville girl was attacked and murdered by an unidentified assailant, four Negroes were grabbed by a mob and would have been lynched had not officers with guts and a sense of responsibility interfered.

With less courageous officers in Madison county, four innocent Negroes would have been put to death.

For a Negro arrested in Indiana has confessed to the crime.

This should be a lasting lesson to mobs but it won't.

For mobs do not reason.

Mobs are blind with fury—with no responsibility, no sanity, and no justice.

Filling a tooth is like death—neither is painful. It's the preliminaries that hurt.

Charlotte, N. C., News
April 12, 1936

Ways of the World.

(Montgomery Advertiser.)

Upon two recent famous occasions county officials in Alabama have acted in the best tradition of civilized government to protect "niggers" charged with the highest of all crimes known in the Deep South.

First, Scottsboro; second, Huntsville.

In the first instance a gallant and intelligent Sheriff saved the lives of a band of men charged with The First Crime from death—they were men who had never lived in Jackson county; they were charged with assault upon women who had never lived in that hill county.

They could have been lynched in many counties — they were not lynched in High Jackson.

But High Jackson has lived to see itself libeled and humiliated on every continent nevertheless.

It has seldom been praised by a commentator outside of Alabama for its restraint in the face of torrential passion.

Officers in Huntsville the other day conducted themselves bravely and brilliantly in face of passions that nobody down this way knows how to quiet except by force and subterfuge.

In both instances nobody was lynched. In both instances everybody was abused by people living beyond the borders of Alabama—that is, everybody except the men accused of rape and murder.

O world, take the witness!

Raleigh, N. C. Observer
April 8, 1936

Lynch Justice

On March 25 [illegible] 8-year-old girl was brutally attacked and murdered near Huntsville, Alabama. Only removal to Birmingham saved four Negro suspects from lynching by a furious mob. Now another Negro, arrested Saturday in Terre Haute, Indiana, to which he had fled on freight trains, has confessed that he alone committed the crime. Thus the courage and the promptness of Alabama officers in protecting their prisoners from the blind fury of the mob not only prevented a lynching but prevented the murder of innocent men.

Constitution 5-3-36 Atlanta, Ga.

Hold Law's Delays and Loopholes Largely Responsible for Lynchings in Georgia

Editor Constitution: Have just read your editorial, "Crucifying Georgia," in which the statement is made regarding the lynching of a negro "at Royston," etc. Just want to correct the impression that it occurred here. I have not made a full investigation of the matter, but was informed that the negro was brought here from Danielsville about midnight; that authorities at Athens refused to permit his incarceration in their jail, 16 miles beyond Danielsville, [illegible] Madison county officials, hearing threats of lynching after he was indicted only for "attempted rape," not a capital offense, brought him to Royston, where there is only the average small-town jail, with only the night policeman to protect him. He was not Royston's charge and the local police is not to be censured for not endangering his life in trying to protect him. My home is within 100 yards of the city jail, and I knew nothing of the affair until I went to town the next morning. He was taken to the scene of his crime, some 20 miles from here, before he was lynched.

It seems to me that he should have been kept in Atlanta until the morning of the trial or placed in a modern jail rather than bringing him to a small-town jail. However, while I deplore mob law, so long as the crime for which he was lynched is committed, whether it be in Georgia, Massachusetts or Montana, there will be lynchings, especially when northern lawyers busy themselves defending the culprits, delaying executions after the criminals have been tried and convicted, as was the case with John Downer's crime in Elbert county a few years ago. We need reform in our court system which permits appeal after appeal and delays the operation of justice, so often resulting in burdensome expense to the county and state, and sometimes in thwarting justice.

J. F. LEE.

Royston, Ga., April 30, 1936.

WHERE THE BLAME LIES.

Editor Constitution: As a reader of the morning Constitution for the past 30 years, I note your today's editorial on the lynching in Franklin county, Georgia. In this editorial you say that The Constitution does not know where the blame lies and you state that "on the eve of his trial with the law moving swiftly and surely," etc.

Do you recall the "Scottsboro cases" still hanging fire for years? Do you recall the decision of the supreme court of the United States in these cases which holds the indictment and trial of a negro void, unless negroes serve on both the grand jury and trial jury? This decision has no constitutional background. No common law background. In England's provinces of the type of India and Egypt, where English blood is in the minority, only a jury of Englishmen can try an Englishman.

When the supreme court handed down the "Scottsboro" political decision, I remarked that this court had by the unwise decision paved the way for the lynching of more ignorant negroes than had ever been lynched in the entire south for the past 50 years. If you live long enough, you will see that this will come true.

In this same judge's judicial district a few years ago occurred the now forgotten "Downer case," in which the defendant was given a quick, fair and speedy trial. I was not in the case, but being in the town at the time, I advised with the trial judge and Downer was protected by state militia. Just before time for his execution, attorneys were employed and paid by people from outside the state. Habeus corpus proceeding were brought in the federal court at Macon and the trial judge held the federal court had no jurisdiction. In his holding, he was following two decisions of the United States circuit court of appeals at New Orleans, which came up from Macon. Both were rape cases and both white men and the woman had sold the liquor to the boys who got drunk and then committed the crime. It was necessary for militia to protect these men during the trial in preventing a lynching. White men of about 20 or 25 years of age. The cases were tried at Gray, Ga., and the circuit court at New Orleans held the trial valid and no constitutional guaranty was denied these men. The case from Gray, Ga., is found in 21 Fed. (2nd) 964, Johnson vs. Dunnaway. The Downer case is found in 53 Fed. (2nd) 586, Downer vs. Dunnaway. In the 237 U. S. 424, a case of this character in Georgia, in which the defendant was a white man and the supreme court held that the federal court had no jurisdiction.

Judge Moseley, in whose district the recent case occurred, is a man of unusual integrity and ability, second to no judge of the federal court at New Orleans or of the United States. He was placed in the position of "be damned if you do" and "be damned if you don't."

Under the law as now applied in our federal courts of this state, all a criminal has to do in escaping punishment, is to commit a crime so heinous as to be beyond human endurance and he will under the law and existing conditions of public opinion [illegible] no place can be found [illegible] he may be tried.

[illegible] misguided citizens here and [illegible] "up north" share in the responsibility. They make it possible for the criminal to think that he will escape a just and swift punishment, just because he is a negro. They are actually trying to prevent the application of the same punishment to the lowest type of a criminal, that the south applies to white and black alike. Witness the effect of the decision of the supreme court of the United States in the Scottsboro cases. Since that decision rape cases have increased in the south over 300 per cent, especially in the states of Georgia, where the Downer case occurred, and in Alabama, where the Scottsboro cases have turned the laws of justice upside down. Only a few weeks ago, the federal court at Macon freed a guilty negro after a fair trial and conviction upon the sole ground that he had to be protected by state militia, when being brought to trial.

Relative to the Downer case, it is true that more lying was done about that trial than any case I know anything about. Even the now famous New Jersey case of Hauptmann fades into fantasy when compared to that case. If ever a case was fairly tried, that one was, for all evidence in the defendant's favor was admitted, hearsay and otherwise. Under his own statement on the witness stand, the defendant stated that he gave another negro his shoes in order for him to go up and commit the crime, while he sat on the roadside to wait until he returned and told Downer that he had committed the crime. Downer was under the law accessory to the fact, before and after the crime was committed and as such, the jury was authorised to convict him of the crime. Under the Georgia law, an accessory before the fact must be punished to the same extent as the principal. The prosecution was handled by the now Congressman Paul Brown and the defendant had three capable attorneys to defend him and the trial was very fair. For his honest and capable work this very fine judge was criticized and abused by people who are thought by the local population to have received money for their slander of the judge and the defendant's attorneys. Many local or state papers printed such scurrilous statements, either with or without pay. Missionaries were sent into the town to investigate and spent money there, and as one good negro said to me, they were just making it hard for the honest and law abiding negro who never condoned the commission of the crime.

A GEORGIA LAWYER.

Atlanta, Ga., April 30, 1936.

ROYSTON INNOCENT.

Editor Constitution: The people of Royston are law-abiding and peaceable. For this reason we approve the controlling spirit of your editorial of this morning, "Crucifying Georgia." However, we have every right to resent the publicity given our little city through the medium of the press and the radio directly connecting us with a lynching of which we not only were entirely innocent but totally unaware until the following morning.

Aside from our policemen who un[illegible] permitted peace officers from afar to temporarily lodge this criminal in our local lockup, not a single other person, so far as we are able to learn, had any knowledge whatever of his having been brought through a circuitous route to Royston, instead of being returned to the Fulton tower or some county jail as should have been done by the officers who had him in charge. Not only was both the scene of the crime and that of the lynching no less than 20-odd miles from Royston, but not a single Roystonian had a hand in either his coming or going or his being put to death by a mob.

Not only did the bar and citizenry of Frankin county pass and publish resolutions highly commending Judge Berry T. Moseley for dispersing the first mob, but we are believers in law enforcement generally speaking, and deplore the publicity given us not only in this matter, but also as regarded a murder case the first of the week, reported under a Royston date line.

THE ROYSTON RECORD,
H. H. DYOR, Editor.
J. C. DOYLE, Mayor.

Lumberton, N. C. Robersonian
April 20, 1936

Men stirred up to the point of engaging in a lynching will act first and investigate afterwards, when it is too late. Two lynchings were prevented by officers recently, one in Alabama, one in Georgia. In the Alabama case a young girl had been assaulted and killed and a mob was led by bloodhounds from her body to a cabin occupied by four negroes. Proof enough for an excited mob. But officers fought their way through and rescued the negroes, one of whom already had a wire about his neck. Later another negro was arrested and confessed the crime, and the four who narrowly escaped mob vengeance for a crime they did not commit were set free. Make your own comment.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.
GAZETTE

MAY 1 - 1936

AFTER ALL THOSE YEARS WITHOUT A LYNCHING.

Arkansas had not had until this week a case of lynching in more than three and one-half years. That was a record no other strictly Southern state except Virginia could equal, and few others could approach.

Now, when a mob at Lepanto, in Poinsett county, takes the law into its own hands, Arkansas has a lynching without the justification usually claimed for such outbreaks of lawless violence.

City Marshal Jay May of Lepanto, from whom the victim was taken by a crowd of masked men and shot to death, describes the 19-year-old Negro as a "half-witted" youth. He was accused of attempted attack on a white woman. But he had not been formally charged with any crime, and had been told that no charges would be filed if he would leave the county and not return.

For reasons different from those ordinarily applying, this mob murder demands thorough investigation. If this young Negro was half-witted, if his offense was not serious cause enough for trying him and sending him to the penitentiary, or if because of his mental condition it seemed justice would best be served by simply telling him to get out of Poinsett county, in any case there had been no brutal, bestial crime to outrage the feelings of the Lepanto community. And this had to come in the year when Arkansas invites the whole nation to join in celebration of its centennial.

Louisville, Miss. Journal
April 24, 1936

The Scottsboro, Ala., negro rape case has been postponed again, this time July. This Scottsboro case is encouraging mob-law more than anything else, or more than the Atlanta Women's anti-lynching organization can offset in forty years. This paper suggested a few things to these good ladies a few years ago when they were endeavoring to pry into an old negro killing here. Among these suggestions was that if they would devote more of their time to the Courts and prisons, they might have better success. But we have not heard of them heeding the suggestions. Too much time is being given to bettering prisons, and securing pardons, to say nothing of using criminals for jury service. It would be a very dumb criminal who would not protect the criminal, both on juries and keeping prisons. Why care better for a criminal than he was ever accustomed to at home?

Thomasville, Ga., Press
May 8, 1936

MURDER AND LYNCHING AT PAYO SUNDAY

28

One of the worst crimes recorded in this county in a number of years took place near Payo last Sunday. A young white man was killed with a carving knife by a negro man, and the negro, was captured by a deputy sheriff after a chase with blood hounds and a mob overpowered the officer and carried the negro to a spot near the scene and lynched him.

Sheriff Davis and Coroner Cooper were called and two separate inquests were held after the best possible information was obtained. The verdict of the jury in the inquest over the body of Marion Pate, young white farmer was to the effect that he came to his death by stabbing with a knife in the hands of John Rushin, a negro man. The jury in the second inquest held over the body of John Rushin, negro, lynched by a mob was to the effect that he came to his death by gun shot wounds at the hands of unknown parties.

The best information obtainable of the affair was to the effect that John Rushin had become drunk at a Saturday night negro party in that community and had trouble with other negroes. Early in the morning three white men, Marion Pate, Will Galey and Mr. Burgess driving along the road in a truck give the negro a ride. He raised a fuss and whipped out a knife and cut Pate and Galey, they jumped out and the negro chased Pate into the woods, where Pate was later found cut to death. Galey and Burgess gave the alarm and a posse was formed. In the search Rushin was run down and captured and turned over to Deputy Sheriff Kennedy. While in custody of the deputy in the midst of a crowd the negro admitted the murder, and the deputy was overpowered and the negro rushed off in the woods. Later his body was found riddled with bullets near the spot where the body of Pate was found.

Reports were that when the dead negro was later found his body was strung to a car and dragged to the grounds of a negro school and left there where the sheriff and other officers found it.

It wa sindeed a stormy day of excitement in and about Payo, but the officials were unable to secure evidence that connected any one with the lynching episode. Judge W. E. Thomas was asked to see that a thorough investigation of the crime was carried out and he promptly assured the public that this request would be omplied with.

Lynchings - 1936
6
Discussion

White Press, Southern.

5291

5291

SOUTHERNER
~~Tarboro~~, N.C.
APR 2 - 1936

Lynchings and the Law

Editorial writers, radio commentators and, indeed, the gentle public, have all been too ready to lament the spirit of mob violence following each and every lynching in the land and too shy about placing the blame where at least part of it belongs; that is, on the shoulders of the officers of the law whose fear or indifference makes lynchings possible.

While mob action is of course lamentable, it is also a fact largely overlooked that the mob would have no opportunity to exercise its madness if proper precautions to deter it were the rule in all communities. The Raleigh News and Observer, editorializing on lynching, makes this observation: "Lynching is a crime all but impossible in a state and community where officers are determined to uphold their oaths to uphold the law." This statement needs no explanation. It should be obvious to anyone who will permit his mind to approach the subject fairly.

Last year 89 persons were saved from lynching by intelligent and fearless action on the part of the officers. But in many other instances, lynchings occurred which could have been prevented had the officers exercised the necessary efforts. That 89 persons were saved from being lynched is not enough. While the fact is commendable, it should not be the part of the subject to receive emphasis. Rather, it should be secondary to the thought that in many other cases, persons were lynched because the two necessary factors were present: first, the spirit of the mob, and secondly, the lack of official performance of duty.

As we see it, this lack of performance of duty is the angle of the lynching situation which should receive the greatest emphasis of all. Obviously, there are certain types of persons in whom the madness which makes them want to lynch cannot be quelled. It is largely a waste of efforts to try to teach such people by reason and argument that lynching is wrong, for when fired to indignation and madness, reason flies out the window. But it is not a waste of effort to demand that law enforcement agencies should so highly regard their obligation to society that they will in all cases see to it that intended lynch victims be placed out of reach of their would-be lynchers. When all officers realize this duty, and only then, will lynching become a thing of the past.

KILBY'S WAR ON ALABAMA MOBS

Advertiser

4-9-36

In its comment on The Advertiser's recent editorial regarding the uniformly creditable record of Alabama governors in opposing mob violence, The Anniston Star draws particular attention to the noble record of its neighbor, former Governor Thomas E. Kilby.

Says The Star:

This case gives further proof that lynchings often can be prevented by prompt and determined work on the part of those in authority. And in this connection it also would be well to mention the fact that vigorous and fearless application of the force of the law in the punishment of lynchers can also be made a forceful deterrent in dealing with such crimes. Furthermore, we should not overlook the record of Alabama in this respect in recent years for in that may be found concrete evidence of what can be accomplished in the way of obtaining convictions at trials when the authorities, particularly the chief executive of the State, are willing to prosecute suspected lynchers without fear or favor.

During the 30-year period from 1900 to 1930, other states convicted 33 defendants charged with taking part in lynchings, while in two years of Governor Kilby's administration 34 were found guilty in Alabama. In the entire period of 30 years 37 lynchers were convicted in Alabama against 33 for all other states, which reveals a very creditable record for this State. But the striking fact in regard to Alabama's record is that 34 of the 37 lynching convictions obtained in the State in three decades were returned during the Kilby administration.

These facts are revealed in a report of Dr. Arthur F. Raper, research and field secretary of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, contained in a booklet entitled "The Mob Still Rides." This report gives a clear and comprehensive summary of the lynching record of the country and presents the problem in a manner calculated to impress thoughtful citizens interested in the elimination of crimes of this nature, but it seems that through oversight or otherwise an injustice has been done Alabama and Governor Kilby in that no mention is made of the conviction in this State and especially those obtained in the Kilby administration.

Nothing is said to call attention to a case in which the duty of the State and its chief authority has been discharged. Not one word is given in praise of the single State in which apparently a real effort was made during one administration to convict and punish lynchers—not even a word in recognition of this noteworthy achievement.

On the other hand, under sub headings "Lynchers Seldom Punished" and "Why Yynchers Go Unpunished," numerous examples are given to illustrate the lack of willingness or ability on the part of law enforcement officers and juries to punish lynchers, with the conclusion that the figures show "only a few convictions and sentences seldom commensurate with the crime."

The record of the Kilby administration, however, will stand to his credit in history in this as in all his other accomplishments while serving the State as Governor. As the years pass, the Kilby administration looms larger and will loom still larger in the future as his record passes further into history.

There is no information that a mob could get that could not be obtained better by trained, responsible officials.

There is no service a mob could perform that could not be better performed by grand juries and petit juries.

No mob leader has any contribution to offer society that is comparable to the services of an honest, trained, responsible judge.

No mob is more conscientious in its devotion to the public interest than grand juries and petit juries, and all others connected with our courts.

In other words, the mob is not a good detective, it is not a wise and just jury, it takes no oath. The only thing a mob can do well is to kill. Anybody can kill.

It cannot be said that a mob is as impressive to the guilty man as a courtroom. It is not as impressive to those who may become criminals as a courtroom.

The courtroom is the symbol of the thing called the majesty of the law. Law is civilization's squirrel rifle over the mantle.

Even juries sometimes err, despite all the precautions against error that custom and law require. How much greater is the chance of error in an angry, undisciplined, uncritical mob!

If a mob made no errors in selecting the guilty man, the mob could be condoned, at least theoretically. But the mob is not only unnecessary, it is given to horrible blunders. It has no defense, it can make no rational claim to justification. A mob is not better than a jury. It is plainly worse.

And so Alabama may well take pride in the high ground that its Governors have traditionally taken. We are especially glad of an opportunity to join with The Anniston Star in calling attention to the brave, bold services of Thomas E. Kilby in this regard.

ALEXANDRIA, VA.
GAZETTE
MAR 27 1936

LYNCHING REMEDIES

In a pamphlet on mob violence, the Commission on Interracial Cooperation makes several recommendations for curbing lynchings in this country. Its figures show that almost half the lynchings of the last five years were of persons charged with petty offenses or with no crimes at all. The commission urges more responsibility for Federal and State police in controlling mobs. It asks for change of venues for accused persons. It suggests employment of federal and state prosecutors for trying lynchers. It lists stronger jails and adequate police service as other useful means of coping with a serious problem.

More than all these things, however, the commission regards education as fundamental to eradication of mob violence. The public attitude toward law and justice needs to be changed. People need to learn what harm they do themselves by participation, even as onlookers, in mob violence. Base emotions are aroused. Self-control is surrendered for blind obedience to mob spirit. When these things are understood by more people, mob violence will diminish.

Fayetteville, N. C., Observer
March 20, 1936

COURTS VERSUS MOBS.

Poverty and ignorance are cited by the Columbia State as two of the leading causes of lynching in the South, but it sees signs that the elimination of these factors is slowly but surely eliminating lynchings.

Without disagreeing in any particular from The State's analysis we would add a third contributing factor to the disgrace of lynching: dilatory justice.

In attempting a dispassionate study of lynching it is impossible to avoid the fact that the mob's rash action is society's misdirected defense mechanism against affronts to organized society.

Human beings in order to live together amicably and to preserve individual rights have evolved a system of mass punishment of those who violate those individual rights.

Today organized society delegates the process of mass punishment to specialized branches of society, law enforcement officers and courts.

In the main these specialized branches perform the functions which the mob performed when the mob was the law. But this delegation of authority, though practiced for centuries, has not entirely eradicated from the breast of the human animal the instinct personally to protect society by participating in personal reprisal against society's offenders.

In cases of especially atrocious offenses against the rights of individuals the primary instinct of personal participation in retribution from time to time cracks through the veneer of delegated authority.

The result is as unbeautiful as a bullet-ridden corpse hanging from a dead limb.

But if we desire to eliminate occasional outbursts of this primitive instinct we must make more effective the judicial instrument in which we as individuals for purposes of orderly process have agreed to submerge our individual instincts to participate personally in retribution.

If courts don't function the mobs will.

Concord, N. C. Tribune
April 6, 1936

THE MOB CLAIMS MANY INNOCENT VICTIMS.

Summarizing the results of a careful study of all the lynchings within the past five years, the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, with headquarters at Atlanta, finds that 41 per cent. of the 84 persons lynched during the period were either unaccused of crime or were charged with only minor offenses.

Appearing as a 24-page pamphlet, entitled "The Mob Still Rides," and citing numerous illustrative cases, the report states further that of the other 59 per cent. of mob victims many were innocent of the crimes with which they were charged.

Only one-fourth of the victims were accused of actual or attempted assaults upon women, commonly thought of as the chief cause of lynchings, and in a number of these cases the commission's investigators could find no convincing evidence of guilt.

Officers sometimes connive at lynchings or even participate in them, courts rarely indict lynchers and more rarely convict, and mobs sometimes so dominate the courts as to bring about "legal lynchings," according to the report.

On the other hand, a number of cases are cited in which officers successfully resisted or outwitted mobs.

Though the number of lynchings has declined from a yearly average 35 years ago of 124 to an average of 17 for the last ten years, the study reveals that the lynching habit fades more slowly from the South than from other sections of the country and becomes increasingly a racial phenomenon.

Among the remedies suggested by the report are more adequate police service, stronger jails, change of venue in the trial of lynchers and of persons threatened by mob violence, the lifting of community levels in lynching areas, and the building of a better public opinion.

There is food for careful thought by Southerners in the report.

Montgomery, Ala. Journal
April 9, 1936

Governor Kilby and Lynchings

During the 30-year period from 1900 to 1930, other states convicted 33 defendants charged with taking part in lynchings, while in two years of Governor Kilby's administration 34 were found guilty in Alabama. In the entire period of 30 years, 37 lynchers were convicted in Alabama against 33 for all other states, which reveals very creditable record for this state. But the striking fact in regard to Alabama's record is that 34 of the 37 lynching convictions obtained in the state in three decades were returned during the Kilby administration. The record of the Kilby administration, however, will stand to his credit in history in this as in all his other accomplishments while serving the state as governor. As the years pass, the Kilby administration looms larger and will loom still larger in the future as his record passes further into history. — Anniston Star.

Birmingham, Ala. News
April 7, 1936

Let Justice Be Quick In The Huntsville Case

The Negro whom Huntsville officers accused of the fatal attack on Miss Vivian Woodward in that city Saturday before last has been arrested and is reported to have confessed the horrible crime.

Now let the justice of the law be quick and sure in this shocking case. It is to be taken for granted that a special session of the Madison County Grand Jury will be called at once to bring an indictment. The trial should follow as quickly as possible. In addition to the reported confession, the officers seem to have all the evidence necessary for speedy conviction.

This case affords an excellent opportunity not only to serve the ends of justice in this particular crime, but also to strike a good blow for the cause of lawful justice as against mob action. But if this cause is to be served most effectively, the law must move promptly and surely. Any delay in the prosecution of the case and in the execution of the sentence on conviction would be extremely unfortunate, especially in view of the high feeling that was aroused by the heinous crime of which the Negro, Walter Miller, is accused. The authorities of Madison County must surely be aware of the need for speedy action.

The arrest of Miller so soon after the crime, notwithstanding that he had gone to a distant state in his attempt to escape, is most gratifying. In tracking him down and returning him to Alabama, the officers of Huntsville and of Terre Haute, Ind., where he was arrested, have done remarkably efficient work. The description of the Negro broadcast from Huntsville led to his arrest in Terre Haute. All Alabama is grateful to the officers of the Indiana city for their keen vigilance and fine cooperation in the arrest and return of the prisoner. Brought to Birmingham immediately by Huntsville officers, the Negro soon confessed.

There is an important lesson to be found in the events connected with this case. Immediately after the crime four Negroes were arrested. A mob formed and an attempt was made to lynch one or more of the suspects. The officers succeeded in taking the four Negroes from the hands of the mob, and removed them to Birmingham for safekeeping.

The Huntsville authorities did not believe that any of the four Negroes had had anything to do with the crime, although they thought one of them might give information concerning the guilty man. The officers' theories in the case have turned out to be correct.

Now, what if the authorities had not been successful in safeguarding the prisoners from the Huntsville crowd? If there had been a lynching, one or more innocent persons would have been put to death. Moreover, the case might have ended there, and no search have been made for the real criminal. In that event, not only would a horrible injustice have been done, but the real criminal would have gone scotfree.

This is a lesson which Alabamians should not forget. It ought to have a deterring effect on any crowd that ever gathers following a crime. But if the full force of this lesson is to be brought home to Alabamians, this case must be disposed of with the greatest possible dispatch. One of the excuses for lynchings is that the law sometimes moves too slowly. That is not a good excuse —there is no good excuse for a lynching— but nevertheless it figures in the mob psychology which leads to lynchings. If the justice of the law moves swiftly in this case, even mob-minded persons cannot fail to be satisfied.

Lynchings-1936
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

5292

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
May 5, 1936

An Intolerable Situation

THE Southern people have no right to criticize the ruffianly bashi-bazouks of Nazidom or the Black Shirt pluguglies of Italy, so long as they themselves countenance the mob violence which is now breaking out every few days in the South, with fatal results to members of the Negro race.

Three Negroes have been lynched within a space of less than a week, and we may be sure that in none of the cases will any effective action be taken to punish the mobsters who murdered them. We may anticipate the usual futile and flabby gesture on the part of local authorities to the effect that the victims came to their deaths "at the hands of persons unknown," and that will be the end of it.

For our part, we are so outraged that we shall shed no tears if the WAGNER-COSTIGAN antilynching bill is passed by Congress. It seems obvious that the State and local authorities are not going to take effective action to punish the savages who indulge in these periodic orgies. Hence the only thing left is to try something else.

We are not convinced that the WAGNER-COSTIGAN bill will improve the situation, if it is passed. It provides for trial in the Federal courts of persons suspected of lynchings, where the State courts fail to act. There is considerable doubt as to whether juries in Federal courts will be much more effective in meting out punishment than those in State courts, although they are apt to be drawn from a vicinage other than that in which the lynching took place, and they also are usually selected with greater care than the State juries.

There is also a serious question whether interracial animosities will not be heightened by the intervention of the Federal authority in matters which heretofore have been regarded as falling exclusively within the purview of the individual States. All this is aside from the question of constitutionality. Some leading lawyers think the WAGNER-COSTIGAN bill is unconstitutional.

But granting the serious shortcomings of the measure, we are in a mood to try almost anything. Many Southerners have become so accustomed to reading that a lynching has taken place in Georgia or Mississippi or Florida, and to remarking casually that it is "just another Nigger," that they apparently do not realize that the country in which we live is the only so-called civilized country in the world where such things occur.

Virginia, it is true, has been largely free from these barbarities in late years. This is undoubtedly due, in part, to the anti-lynching bill adopted nearly a decade ago at the insistence of GOVERNOR BYRD, under which lynching is an offense against the State as a whole, all participants are subject to charges of murder, and the Governor can authorize the attorney-general to assist in the prosecution of lynchers and to spend any sum the Governor sees fit in bringing them to justice.

As far as we are aware, no other Southern State has passed a law like that adopted in Virginia. If such laws were passed throughout the South, it is probable that the number of lynchings would decline markedly. However, little or nothing is being done in that direction, so we see no alternative but to take drastic action. The WAGNER-COSTIGAN bill may be unconstitutional and it may do harm, but we refuse to countenance the indefinite continuance of the intolerable situation which now exists.

Madison, Ga., Madisonian
May 1, 1936

Another Lynching

The lynching of a negro in our neighboring county of Madison Monday night, constitutes another stain on Georgia's reputation for law and order and gives another strong support to those who are trying to fasten a federal anti-lynching law on us, which may mean more trouble.

The negro should not have been lynched. The ends of justice would have been fully met at his trial to be held the very next day.

The crime with which he was charged was serious and vicious enough—attempted assault on a young white woman, and assault on an arresting officer. The Macon Telegraph draws the following conclusions from the incident:

But none of these things can excuse the killing of the prisoner by mob violence. There was all the less excuse for it because within eighteen days after the crime of which he was accused, during which time he had to have medical attention, he was to be brought to trial and one of the ablest and most impartial judges in the state would have presided. There was no reasonable probability that the Negro would have escaped proper punishment for whatever crime he had committeed and the good name of the State would have been spared this additional stigma.

It has required many long years to reduce the number of yearly lynchings in the United States—and we include the whole country advisedly because it is beyond dispute that this is not exclusively a southern problem. Some progress has been made, but Monday night's deplorable incdient reminds us that we have not yet risen above the elemental savagery which is responsible for mob violence.

Time and again the warning has gone forth that unless there is an end to this thing of breaking into jails and lynching prisoners, or rescuing them from the hands of officers in order to wreak a summary vengeance, the day will come when a federal anti-lynching law will be passed. Certain influences thus far have been able to stave off this law, which in one form or another has been introduced in every congress for many years. But the plea to let us set our own house in order will fall on deaf ears if there are many more such crimes as that of Monday night when a prisoner was dragged almost from the bar of justice and brutally done to death.

Justice and humanity had better assert themselves while there is yet time.

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
May 4, 1936

Back to Dark Ages

Since Neanderthal days when people lived in caves and wore animal skins for clothing, mankind has gradually curbed his animal passions until today, when an emergency occasion comes, the long-accumulated rules man has applied to himself usually keep him from follies. We call this education. By practicing honesty in little things, and making honesty our life's policy, we find it easy to spurn temptation when a big sum is involved. This process of civilization supposedly protects us from sheer animalism we try to keep subjected. Extremes of emotionalism we also consider out of date — belonging to past generations, past centuries.

Yet persons zealous for true civilization find the lynching of Lint Shaw near Colbert, Ga., evidence that in some people the sheer animal instincts and reactions belonging to the stone age are still prevalent. If the lynchers — the murderers — were really concerned over law enforcement, which is their stock excuse in such cases, there are plenty of legitimate instances arising every day where mass influence might benefit. But the arguments against such summary action by a mob are so overwhelming, one feels that all reason must have fled before these self-inflamed men killed Lint Shaw, who was facing an orderly trial and strict justice. Calling this lynching a disgrace to the South, to Georgia, and to the community is not enough. It is another blot on our record of civilized advancement from the jungles. And this particular instance was particularly abhorrent.

One does not find leading citizens in a lynching mob. Men who use their brains, to say nothing of their hearts or their consciences, do not commit such violence against society which invariably is just as revolting as the original crime. Such mobs are made up of men whose emotions are close to the surface, whose reactions are primitive, whose own lives have been spent so near the border line of order and disorder that a little liquor or a casual word or the ranting plea of a volatile person sweeps them into this temporary insanity.

It remains our national obligation to school ourselves more rigidly in little things, so that this accumulated discipline will keep us sane and civilized when any warped emotions try to blaze up. And every person with any right to call himself law-abiding and solicitous for law enforcement will condemn such mass murder, as a symbol that our self-vaunted civilization in some instances is only skin deep.

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3 GEORGIA LYNCHINGS ASSAILED BY WOMEN

Constitution

Decatur-Oxford W. M. S. Passes Resolutions Condemning Mob Violence.

5-15-36

Resolutions condemning "unreservedly the three lynchings which have been committee in Georgia this year," were passed by members of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Decatur-Oxford district, Methodist Episcopal church, South, at the annual district conference held in Decatur Wednesday, it was announced yesterday.

Atlanta, Ga.

Pledging itself to "stand foursquare against mob violence for any cause," the society went on [illegible] as opposing "all emotional upheavals based on racial prejudice in our state, in our country and in our church." Mrs. E. C. McDowell, of Social Circle, district secretary, presided.

The resolution follows:

"Without offering any excuse for the people of our state, we, members of the Methodist Missionary Society, working toward a Christian America, condemn unreservedly the three lynchings which have been committed in Georgia this year. We recognize that such violations of all the principles for which we stand as Christians and Americans will not cease, but will continue to grow as long as hatred, fear weapons in political campaigns. and racial prejudice are used as

"Resolutions against lynchings are ineffective unless we make our resolutions a passionate conviction which will not let us hold our peace as long as lynchings are committed.

"We pledge ourselves to stand foursquare against mob violence for any cause. We shall oppose all emotional upheavals based on racial prejudice in our state, in our country and in our church."

COLUMBIA, S. C.
RECORD
MAY 1 1936

DISREGARDING ITS OWN EXAMPLE.

The praise that Georgia won for preventing the lynching of Lint Shaw, negro accused of attempting to attack two white girls, was, it now seems, premature.

What Georgians didn't do on April 11 when Superior Court Judge Berry Mosely, 74, of Danielsville, got out of his sick bed to appeal to his fellow citizens that they let the law take its course, they did April 28, disregarding their own precedent. Shaw, taken from the Royston jail, was found dead Tuesday near Colbert, Ga. He had been shot nearly a hundred times.

Judge Mosely, it appears, therefore, is a better citizen than some of his fellow citizens. He knows, as apparently they do not, that law and order are never served by lawlessness and slaughter, that murder is no answer to some other attempted crime. The pity is that his wisdom did not prevail since Georgia, experience teaches, will pay dearly for the error of those 40 cowards—it is no bravery on the part of 40 armed white men to kill an unarmed negro.

For the lynching appears to have been less excusable than most. April 11 Georgia, thanks to Sheriff T. L. Henley, of Danielsville, and Judge Mosely had demonstrated how lynchings could be prevented. Judge Mosely, summoned by the sheriff who had himself been unable to control the mob, persuaded the would-be lynchers to disperse and then before they could reassemble national guardsmen had arrived in sufficient force to prevent a lynching and to remove the negro beyond the mob's reach. Always lynchings can be prevented when officers of the law are prepared to use sufficient force to make it dangerous for the lynchers.

Monday night Shaw, indicted on two charges of attacking the officers who had transferred him from one jail to another for his own protection when first arrested, was returned to Danielsville for his trial the next day. Talk of a lynching was heard again and a crowd began to assemble outside the jail. Sheriff Henley transferred his prisoner to Royston, where eventually the lynchers found him. Forty men drove up to the little jail at midnight and demanded of W. A. Dickerson, night policeman, that he surrender his keys.

"I was alone and expecting trouble, so I hid my keys," Dickerson explained.

His strategy failed. The lynchers, denied the keys, broke into the jail. "I guess it only took them ten minutes to get in," Dickerson guessed.

A telephone call to Sheriff Henley started a search for the mob and the prisoner. It ended when the negro's riddled body was found.

The lynching could have been prevented. All that was required was to follow the precedent established on April 11 and to summon a sufficient force to prevent the lynching. Dickerson expected trouble, but he was alone. There were no national guardsmen with him.

Judge Mosely on April 11 had threatened the would-be lynchers with discovery and its consequences.

"I recognize most of you anyway," he told them.

But Dickerson, of Royston, didn't know his April 28 mob.

"I didn't recognize any of them," he said. "I guess they all came over from about Danielsville."

And the coroner's jury verdict was that Shaw came to his death "by gunshot wounds inflicted by persons unknown."

It is the same old sorry story, aggravated this time by the fact that less than three weeks ago Georgians proved they knew better.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
May 4, 1936

IN MEETING LYNCH EVIL

Another lynching in Georgia is calling forth another wave of denunciation from the press and other sources, but it has been demonstrated quite clearly that denunciation is not going to end the evil.

The thing that will end it, if it is ended, will be rigid enforcement of law.

A condition must be created under which the general public will know definitely and positively when crimes are committed the guilty persons will be punished promptly and adequately.

That is the remedy and nothing else will serve.

When lynchers go into action they do more than lynch the person against whom their wrath burns. They lynch the law as well, and a condition must be created under which they will have sufficient respect for the law not to put it to shame or to risk its wrath.

A situation under which the most outrageous crimes may be committed and the guilty may drag their cases through the courts for years, as has been done at Scottsboro, Ala., must be ended.

Constitution
5-20-36
Atlanta, Ga.

GEORGIA WOMEN PROTEST

Discussing the recent lynchings in Georgia, a group of 150 Christian women gathered last week in a Decatur church, expressed approval of The Constitution's condemnation of these outrages against law and order and went on record as realizing that "we cannot be very far along toward a Christian America with three lynchings in Georgia this year."

In notifying The Constitution of the attitude of this group of Georgia women, Mrs. B. Frank Pim, the secretary of the meeting, writes:

Editor Constitution: One hundred and fifty Christian women gathered this week at the First Methodist church, Decatur, Ga., in a school of missions, using the text, "Toward a Christian America," went on record today as wishing to express to you their appreciation and approval of your editorial, "Crucifying Georgia."

We realize, with you, that we cannot be very far along toward a Christian America with three lynchings in Georgia this year.

MRS. B. FRANK PIM,
Secretary.

The attitude of this group of Georgia women reflects the sentiment of the women of Georgia generally. Individually and through various organizations they have never failed to condemn mob violence, despite the fact that the majority of lynchings have followed crimes against their sex.

The three lynchings in Georgia since the first of the year are all the more lamentable in view of the fine record of the state in this respect during recent years.

Before the pressure of wise and conservative public opinion, lynching had been practically eliminated as a blot on the good name of the state, and its sudden recurrence is perhaps largely due to the inflammable and scurrilous literature which was circulated at the recent grass roots convention in Macon and afterwards distributed throughout the state.

This literature, containing photographs and matter furnished by sources out of the state and circulated within the state by anti-Roosevelt leaders, based its sole appeal on race prejudice and passion. It is regretted that the Governor of Georgia apparently lent his approval to such distribution. He certainly did not attempt to stop his cohorts.

Nobody can know to what major extent the racial passions aroused among the ignorant elements of the state's population are responsible for the lynchings that have taken place this year.

It is to the undying credit of the people of Georgia that these vicious efforts to fan race prejudice provoked universal resentment.

In commenting upon the widespread condemnation of nefarious effort to achieve political ends at the cost of the peace and welfare of the state, the Brunswick News cites the attitude of the people of Pierce county, one of the leading agricultural counties of the state, as reflecting "what Georgians think." The News reports that—

Henchmen of "Gene," invading the county prior to a proposed presidential preference primary with hundreds of copies of the Woman's World, a few of which were distributed, but the majority forming fuel for a bonfire after they were seized from the automobile of the Talmadge representatives. And those who did the burning weren't city folk, either, but former supporters of Eugene Talmadge!

No wonder this phase of the campaign against Roosevelt was soon brought to an end.

Lynchings-1936
Discussions.

White Press, Southern

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DURHAM, N. C.
HERALD

MAY 2 3 1936

CURBING LYNCHINGS

Organizations, groups and individuals interested in a rational approach to the problem of curbing mob lynchings that have recently staged a come-back in the south now have a starting point. A Louisiana jury gave it to them the other day when it ordered a sheriff to pay over $2,500 to the parents of a lynching victim he failed to protect from the demands of a mob.

The background of the Louisiana case is not different from that of the average mob lynching. A woman was murdered. A 16-year-old Negro youth was suspected of the crime and lodged in jail. A mob gathered round about the jail, demanded and obtained custody of the youth, carried him to the scene of the alleged crime and there executed the emotional will. The sheriff, according to court testimony, offered next to no resistance to the mob while two of his deputies did even less to uphold the law and a third witnessed the assault on everything akin to orderly justice. All that happened in 1933. Now in 1936, after the crime was traced to another, a federal jury steps in and directs the easy going sheriff to fork over $2,500.

That, we say, gives crusaders against lynching a starting point; a rational starting point. It does, because it represents the first forthright attempt to place the blame for a lot of lynchings where it belongs—on the shoulders of weak kneed officers, who go blind, disappear, lose their memory and suddenly develop hearing trouble whenever a mob confronts them.

It would seem, however, that the Louisiana civil verdict calls for a follow through. A jury has decided the sheriff should be penalized to the extent of parting with $2,500. If that be true, he is now subject to the criminal law and certainly he is no longer eligible to wear the badge of a law enforcement officer.

The point is that at last a southern jury of white men has stood up and charged a sheriff with conspiring with a mob. That is something new in southern treatment of the aftermath of lynchings. It is something to be builded on if there is the will to build. And incidentally it is an alternative to the sort of anti-lynching legislation toyed with at Washington to the great discomfort of our southern senators and representatives.

There are times, we suppose, when sheriffs are powerless to defend the law against mobs. But there can be no betterment of that situation until sheriffs are given to understand that they are required to exhaust their resources in defense of their duty and must answer when they fail.

RICHMOND, VA.
NEWS-LEADER

MAY 2 2 1936

STRENGTHEN THE SHERIFF.

Federal Judge WAYNE G. BORAH'S decision at New Orleans may be a long step forward in the prevention of lynchings. The responsibility of the sheriff to the prisoner's family might have more effect, it is true, if he were assured by his own resources instead of by a bonding company. Even as things are, however, damages forfeited by an officer who can be proved negligent will furnish a tangible sign of his failure in duty—such a sign as should help to keep him aware of what his duty really is..

A larger view is that the more deeply the sheriff's honor is involved, the more chance there is that the crowd will capitulate. Before doing irreparable harm to the reputation of a man who is in most cases a friend and intimate, mobsters would be a shade more likely to take the second thought that leads to a glimmering of reason.

Moreover, anything which tends to make lynch threats the subject of a fight to the death between sheriff and mob, helps to dispel the threat. Those who are not affected by the horror of killing a neighbor and officer would hesitate simply because they feared to risk their own skins. No one who has ever seen a photograph of a lynch mob can forget the leer of bully and coward which appears on the faces of the lynchers. Strengthen the sheriff's resistance until it becomes deadly, and you make him the equal in battle of a hundred lynchers.

COLUMBIA, S .C.
STATE

MAY 2 3 1936

The Most Horrible Feature of Mob Murder.

Lynching is horrible enough when the mob, overriding the law of constituted government, executes a criminal who would be executed by the sheriff, according to law, had the accused been brought to trial.

But the mob does not try cases. It is brutal, savage. And when the mob rules there is no assurance that the person murdered by the mob is not innocent of the crime alleged. And that was the case where a Louisiana mob took from the jail a 16-year-old Negro boy, accused of murdering a white girl, and hanged him.

At the suit for damages against the sheriff by the parents of the boy, it developed that deputy sheriffs aided the lynchers; one of them participating in the savage beating and killing of the unfortunate youth.

"Later the girl's step-father was said to have confessed to the murder." Thirty years ago The State declared, in reference to the lynching of an innocent Negro youth in South Carolina, that when an innocent person was lynched for a crime, that very act of the mob gave security to the guilty; that the persons in the community involved in the lynching did not wish revealed the fact that an innocent person had been their victim, and were against further investigation. It was so in this Louisiana case. The confession of the girl's step-father was common knowledge, but he, it seems, was not brought to the gallows!

Another Negro boy "taken to witness the lynching," was beaten, strung up and almost murdered by the blood-thirsty mob. It was thought he might have known something about the murder of the girl.

The report from New Orleans does not say how this suit happened to get before a jury of white men in "federal court." But the jury awarded the parents $2,500 damages.

We wonder, in view of the evidence, if those deputy sheriffs, sworn to support the law, will be inconvenienced bv a trial? They are criminals. It is these mobs, aided by such creatures as those deputy sheriffs, that inspire national legislation to give federal courts jurisdiction over lynching cases.

It is, under the constitution, the right of the states, to deal with such cases. But when the states fail to perform their part, for law and humanity, they disgrace themselves and the constitution.

KINGSPORT, TENN.
TIMES

MAY 2 9 1936

NO COLOR DISCRIMINATION

It is unfortunately true that in times of great emotional stress the lawless element of a community almost always assumes the leadership in a mob gathering while the cool level headed citizen is either ignored or thrust aside. The advice of the latter is neither wanted nor followed since the average mob crowd is out for "blood."

For this reason many shameful lynchings have taken place under the guise of "justice." These were meted out to prisoners of the law, some of whom were guilty of the crimes of which they were accused, but many to those later found to be innocent of such accusations. Many of these lynchings were the result of so-called sex crimes—usually an attempted or completed attack of a negro on a white woman. When such crimes occur, the guilty party should, of course, be given an immediate and drastic sentence by the court. However, this should be preceded by a thorough investigation, as more than once it has been conclusively proven that the attempted attack was merely the figment of the accuser's perverted imagination.

Thus the mob is always eager to rush to defend the virtue of a white woman and at the same time satisfy their lust for ruthlessness and barbarism created by the recitation of a deed of violence.

When the victim of an attempted attack happens to be a member of the black race—that is another story. Conclusive evidence of this fact is the attempted storming of a jail at Altus, Oklahoma, where a 19-year-old negro girl was being held after the fatal shooting of a white man. According to her story, the 32-year-old WPA truck driver was shot in self defense after a fight. No charges had been filed against the girl, which, howver, did not act as a deterrent to a crowd f 200 who, led by the slain man's widow, wice tried to storm the jail.

It is true officers were successful in reulsing the mob and thus averting a second ragedy but we contend those of that wild mob with murder in their hearts were just s guilty as though they had gained possesion of the girl and carried out their evil ntentions.

The tremendous nervous shock of the eath of her husband to Mrs. Harlan can e easily understood. The impulse which aused her to attempt to lead a mob against he jail where his slayer was held, however, s more obscure. It is hard to understand hy she would wish to parade her grief in ublic unless one should care to grant her he doubtful leniency of "temporary insanty." Perhaps she resented the reflection on er husband's integrity—perhaps she was razed with grief—perhaps she craved revenge for the actual shooting—perhaps!

At any rate any violence done the colored girl will not bring back the dead nor will it present a solution to such problems in the future.

We feel that we express the sentiments f the majority when we uphold this negro girl in defense of her honor. Any and every woman, be she white, black, brown or yelow, should have the privilege of self defense and should be so upheld. Should it be proven the negro girl was repulsing unwelcome advances of the truck driver we would dvocate complete exoneration for her. When perverted males of the white race learn they will not be upheld because of their color they will be much slower to place themselves in a osition to get shot.

COLUMBIA, S. C.
RECORD

MAY 29 1936

Why Worry About the Cook?

The Charleston News and Courier proves The ecord's case against it. It has not only lost its ense of perspective; it has abandoned it entirely, hrown it overboard.

It persists in thinking—is thinking the word?—hat it is important that the Costigan-Wagner bill r more accurately perhaps the Dyer bill, of which [illegible] bill is a copy, may have or may not have been written by some representative of the Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples.

And commonsense, which as The News and Courier will doubtless concede is no New Dealerish attribute, suggests, as The Record pointed out, that the content of the bill, of any bill, not its authorship is the important thing. If The News and Courier desires to oppose the Constigan-Wagner bill as "striking at the vitals of separate state government" that is one thing. And The Record has not and does not advocate the enactment of the Costigan-Wagner bill; it hasn't seen any convincing evidence that the enactment of the bill would accomplish anything more toward eliminating lynching than is already gradually being accomplished by the states and it isn't ready to abandon state rights and state responsibility. The lynching evil, it suspects, is deeper rooted than law writers, white or black, suppose.

What The Record complained of is that The News and Courier was subordinating these fundamental arguments to go chasing the shadow of the issue, not the substance.

Being of what it calls the "reactionary and Tory South" and boasting in its old age an eight-column waistline The News and Courier in its days must have fed more than once upon succulent steaks and such other juicy edibles. And since it still has a sense of perspective in such affairs, if not in some others, never once has it complained, in The Record's hearing, that these dishes were the product of some negro cook's hand. It knows that what counts is the meal itself not the cook. In such businesses it gets its teeth in the fundamentals and afterwards sits down to a Scotch highball—all without sending its blood pressure up like a national deficit.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
May 28, 1936

MAYBE

In Florida a Polk county jury found five former Tampa policemen guilty of kidnaping and flogging three labor leaders last November, a case made famous for its brutality and the death of one of the victims.

In Louisiana a Federal Court jury fined a sheriff $2500 for negligence in failing to prevent the lynching of Fred Moore, a negro boy, in 1933. Because the case was brought by the dead' boy's parents in Arkansas, the trial fell under Federal jurisdiction.—Birmingham Post.

All of which is very happy as far as it goes, but it doesn't go far enough.

For these cases are not disposed of. The defendants in both cases have given notice they will appeal for new trials, and thus many months, even years, will elapse before a semblance of justice obtains.

In England a defendant may appeal for a new trial only on reasons of fact. The endless technicalities common to American courts are unknown. And in nine cases out of ten only three weeks between conviction and the prison walls—or the gallows.

Some day—perhaps in 200 years—America will wake up and simplify her court procedure.

Maybe.

A writer in the New Republic claims he has witnessed 19 lynchings in the South over a long period as newspaper reporter. We question the gentleman's veracity. Lynchings are not scheduled invitational affairs and unless you participate, you rarely see one.—Selma Times-Journal.

Even when one is occasionally advertised, as that last year near Greenwood, Fla., only a few saw the lynching—those who committed the act. Some say less than a dozen men participated, while several thousand curious persons gathered at the home of the parents of the girl who was outraged.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
NEWS

JUN 16 1936

For a Southern Department of Justice.

Two items in the day's news bring to the fore again that recurring notion of an All-South G-Man department, to invade any community which had a lynching and clear it up quite like any other crime. The idea, of course, slaps our old Dixie prejudices in the face—but isn't it time?

More and more in the North the revulsion against lynching takes the shape of a pious duty to place in the hands of the federal government the task of investigating Southern mob action and bringing the members to justice. Representative Gavagan of New York has just succeeded in bringing out of committee the enabling anti-lynching bill which had been buried so carefully by the Southerners. Before long the bill will be up for debate. It will be defeated. But sooner or later it may pass.

Down in the Southwest, the local and State police of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and New Mexico are trying cooperation against crime and criminals. They have arranged to act under unified direction when the occasion arises, particularly when fugitives are headed toward the border.

That is mentioned merely to show that states can, if they will, cooperate in such enterprises. It gives force to the thought that Southern states should maintain a bureau whereby lynchings could be investigated by outsiders vigorously and impartially. The South quite naturally objects to federal interference in its quaint custom of pitching necktie parties, but unless itself takes steps to stamp out this form of barbarism, the federal government will.

Lynchings-1936
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

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ATLANTA, GA.
CONSTITUTION
MAY 2 - 1936

Hold Law's Delays and Loopholes Largely Responsible for Lynchings in Georgia

Editor Constitution: Have just read your editorial, "Crucifying Georgia," in which the statement is made regarding the lynching of a negro "at Royston," etc. Just want to correct the impression that it occurred here. I have not made a full investigation of the matter, but was informed that the negro was brought here from Danielsville about midnight; that authorities at Athens refused to permit his incarceration in their jail, 16 miles beyond Danielsville, so Madison county officials, hearing threats of lynching after he was indicted only for "attempted rape," not a capital offense, brought him to Royston, where there is only the average small-town jail, with only the night policeman to protect him. He was not Royston's charge and the local police is not to be censured for not endangering his life in trying to protect him. My home is within 100 yards of the city jail, and I knew nothing of the affair until I went to town the next morning. He was taken to the scene of his crime, some 20 miles from here, before he was lynched.

It seems to me that he should have been kept in Atlanta until the morning of the trial or placed in a modern jail rather than bringing him to a small-town jail. However, while I deplore mob law, so long as the crime for which he was lynched is committed, whether it be in Georgia, Massachusetts or Montana, there will be lynchings, especially when northern lawyers busy themselves defending the culprits, delaying executions after the criminals have been tried and convicted, as was the case with John Downer's crime in Elbert county a few years ago. We need reform in our court system which permits appeal after appeal and delays the operation of justice, so often resulting in burdensome expense to the county and state, and sometimes in thwarting justice.

J. F. LEE.

Royston, Ga., April 30, 1936.

WHERE THE BLAME LIES.

Editor Constitution: As a reader of the morning Constitution for the past 30 years, I note your today's editorial on the lynching in Franklin county, Georgia. In this editorial you say that The Constitution does not know where the blame lies and then state that "on the eve of his trial with the law moving swiftly and surely," etc.

Do you recall the "Scottsboro cases" still hanging fire for years? Do you recall the decision of the supreme court of the United States in these cases which holds the indictment and trial of a negro void, unless negroes serve on both the grand jury and trial jury? This decision has no constitutional background. No common law background. In England's provinces of the type of India and Egypt, where English blood is in the minority, only a jury of Englishmen can try an Englishman.

When the supreme court handed down the "Scottsboro" political decision, I remarked that this court had by the unwise decision paved the way for the lynching of more ignorant negroes than had ever been lynched in the entire south for the past 50 years. If you live long enough, you will see that this will come true.

In this same judge's judicial district a few years ago occurred the now forgotten "Downer case," in which the defendant was given a quick, fair and speedy trial. I was not in the case, but being in the town at the time, I advised with the trial judge and Downer was protected by state militia. Just before time for his execution, attorneys were employed and paid by people from outside the state. Habeus corpus proceeding were brought in the federal court at Macon and the trial judge held the federal court had no jurisdiction. In his holding, he was following two decisions of the United States circuit court of appeals at New Orleans, which came up from Macon. Both were rape cases and both white men and the woman had sold the liquor to the boys who got drunk and then committed the crime. It was necessary for militia to protect these men during the trial in preventing a lynching. White men of about 20 or 25 years of age. The cases were tried at Gray, Ga., and the circuit court at New Orleans held the trial valid and no constitutional guaranty was denied these men. The case from Gray, Ga., is found in 21 Fed. (2nd) 964, Johnson vs. Dunnaway. The Downer case is found in 53 Fed. (2nd) 586, Downer vs. Dunnaway. In the 237 U. S. 424, a case of this character in Georgia, in which the defendant was a white man and the supreme court held that the federal court had no jurisdiction.

Judge Moseley, in whose district the recent case occurred, is a man of unusual integrity and ability, second to no judge of the federal court at New Orleans or of the United States. He was placed in the position of "be damned if you do" and "be damned if you don't."

Under the law as now applied in our federal courts of this state, all a criminal has to do in escaping punishment, is to commit a crime so heinous as to be beyond human endurance and he will under the law and existing conditions of public opinion, go free, because no place can be found where he may be tried.

Certain misguided citizens here and from "up north" share in the responsibility. They make it possible for the criminal to think that he will escape a just and swift punishment, just because he is a negro. They are actually trying to prevent the application of the same punishment to the lowest type of a criminal, that the south applies to white and black alike. Witness the effect of the decision of the supreme court of the United States in the Scottsboro cases. Since that decision rape cases have increased in the south over 300 per cent, especially in the states of Georgia, where the Downer case occurred, and in Alabama, where the Scottsboro cases have turned the laws of justice upside down. Only a few weeks ago, the federal court at Macon freed a guilty negro after a fair trial and conviction upon the sole ground that he had to be protected by state militia, when being brought to trial.

Relative to the Downer case, it is true that more lying was done about that trial than any case I know anything about. Even the now famous New Jersey case of Hauptmann fades into fantasy when compared to that case. If ever a case was fairly tried, that one was, for all evidence in the defendant's favor was admitted, hearsay and otherwise. Under his own statement on the witness stand, the defendant stated that he gave another negro his shoes in order for him to go up and commit the crime, while he sat on the roadside to wait until he returned and told Downer that he had committed the crime. Downer was under the law accessory to the fact, before and after the crime was committed and as such, the jury was authorised to convict him of the crime. Under the Georgia law, an accessory before the fact must be punished to the same extent as the principal. The prosecution was handled by the now Congressman Paul Brown and the defendant had three capable attorneys to defend him and the trial was very fair. For his honest and capable work this very fine judge was criticised and abused by people who are thought by the local population to have received money for their slander of the judge and the defendant's attorneys. Many local or state papers printed such scurrilous statements, either with or without pay. Missionaries were sent into the town to investigate and spent money there, and as one good negro said to me, they were just making it hard for the honest and law abiding negro who never condoned the commission of the crime.

A GEORGIA LAWYER.

Atlanta, Ga., April 30, 1936.

ROYSTON INNOCENT.

Editor Constitution: The people of Royston are law-abiding and peaceable. For this reason we approve the controlling spirit of your editorial of this morning, "Crucifying Georgia." However, we have every right to resent the publicity given our little city through the medium of the press and the radio directly connecting us with a lynching of which we not only were entirely innocent but totally unaware until the following morning.

Aside from our policemen who unfortunately permitted peace officers from afar to temporarily lodge this criminal in our local lockup, not a single other person, so far as we are able to learn, had any knowledge whatever of his having been brought through a circuitous route to Royston, instead of being returned to the Fulton tower or some county jail as should have been done by the officers who had him in charge. Not only was both the scene of the crime and that of the lynching no less than 20-odd miles from Royston, but not a single Roystonian had a hand in either his coming or going or his being put to death by a mob.

Not only did the bar and citizenry of Frankin county pass and publish resolutions highly commending Judge Berry T. Moseley for dispersing the first mob, but we are believers in law enforcement generally speaking, and deplore the publicity given us not only in this matter, but also as regarded a murder case the first of the week, reported under a Royston date line.

THE ROYSTON RECORD,
H. H. DYOR, Editor.
J. C. DOYLE, Mayor.

TYLER, TEXAS
COURIER-TIMES

MAR 24 1936

A Philosophy On Lynchings

Lynching is wrong. Every thoughtful person knows that. The best thought of every community is against it.

But there is something about the latest move against lynching which is contrary to reason, logic and the spirit of good understanding.

The commission on inter-racial cooperation is working to do away with lynching. It compiles statistics purportto show that many of the victims of the mob were not even accused of crimes.

That organization has the best wishes of all interested in better citizenship—in all devoted to the cause of religious and recall tolerance.

* * *

But the commission seems to have overstepped itself of late. In a recent report the commission describes the Southern Negro's lot as "slavery, peonage, low wages, restricted work opportunities," and so forth.

The commission described five Southern states as "the lowest ranking states in the union in wealth culture."

There is such a thing as over-emphasizing the disadvantaged lot of the Negro. His situation in life economically is no worse than many white farmers. Our farming system in the South for the past three-quarters of a century hasn't served toward general prosperity.

* * *

Many of our white farmers have struggled under conditions little short of peonage.

But when we raise great hue and cry about a situation that is altogether economic, we give new wings to that vicious school of thought which energetically spreads the charge that the South is a land of barbarians and cruel monsters.

Racial relationship is a problem of the greatest of importance. Every good citizen is concerned with it. But we do not advance the cause of the Negro to any advantage to society as a whole when we arouse prejudice against another type of citizens.

* * *

One cannot say that lynching should be fought on the grounds that the states in which the most lynchings occur are vicious, ignorant people. Instead of helping the Negro, we merely are building up prejudice against those states, making those states more resentful.

We are, in short, taking the paradoxical position of creating prejudice through the very instrumentality created to put down prejudice.

It is just barely possible that the control of the commission on inter-racial cooperation is not altogether in good understanding with the South's peculiar economic and social problems.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
May 2, 1936

Hold Law's Delays and Loopholes Largely Responsible for Lynchings in Georgia

Editor Constitution: Have just read your editorial, "Crucifying Georgia," in which the statement is made regarding the lynching of a negro "at Royston," etc. Just want to correct the impression that it occurred here. I have not made a full investigation of the matter, but was informed that the negro was brought here from Danielsville about midnight; that authorities at Athens refused to permit his incarceration in their jail, 16 miles beyond Danielsville, so Madison county officials, hearing threats of lynching after he was indicted only for "attempted rape," not a capital offense, brought him to Royston, where there is only the average small-town jail, with only the night policeman to protect him. He was not Royston's charge and the local police is not to be censured for not endangering his life in trying to protect him. My home is within 100 yards of the city jail, and I knew nothing of the affair until I went to town the next morning. He was taken to the scene of his crime, some 20 miles from here, before he was lynched.

It seems to me that he should have been kept in Atlanta until the morning of the trial or placed in a modern jail rather than bringing him to a small-town jail. However, while I deplore mob law, so long as the crime for which he was lynched is committed, whether it be in Georgia, Massachusetts or Montana, there will be lynchings, especially when northern lawyers busy themselves defending the culprits, delaying executions after the criminals have been tried and convicted, as was the case with John Downer's crime in Elbert county a few years ago. We need reform in our court system which permits appeal after appeal and delays the operation of justice, so often resulting in burdensome expense to the county and state, and sometimes in thwarting justice.

J. F. LEE.

Royston, Ga., April 30, 1936.

WHERE THE BLAME LIES.

Editor Constitution: As a reader of the morning Constitution for the past 30 years, I note your today's editorial on the lynching in Franklin county, Georgia. In this editorial you say that The Constitution does not know where the blame lies and you state that "on the eve of his trial with the law moving swiftly and surely," etc.

Do you recall the "Scottsboro cases still hanging fire for years? Do you recall the decision of the supreme court of the United States in these cases which holds the indictment and trial of a negro void, unless negroes serve on both the grand jury and trial jury? This decision has no constitutional background. No common law background. In England's provinces of the type of India and Egypt, where English blood is in the minority, only a jury of Englishmen can try an Englishman.

When the supreme court handed down the "Scottsboro" political decision, I remarked that this court had by the unwise decision paved the way for the lynching of more ignorant negroes than had ever been lynched in the entire south for the past 50 years. If you live long enough, you will see that this will come true.

In this same judge's judicial district a few years ago occurred the now forgotten "Downer case," in which the defendant was given a quick, fair and speedy trial. I was not in the case, but being in the town at the time, I advised with the trial judge and Downer was protected by state militia. Just before time for his execution, attorneys were employed and paid by people from outside the state. Habeus corpus proceeding were brought in the federal court at Macon and the trial judge held the federal court had no jurisdiction. In his holding, he was following two decisions of the United States circuit court of appeals at New Orleans, which came up from Macon. Both were rape cases and both white men and the woman had sold the liquor to the boys who got drunk and then committed the crime. It was necessary for militia to protect these men during the trial in preventing a lynching. White men of about 20 or 25 years of age. The cases were tried at Gray, Ga., and the circuit court at New Orleans held the trial valid and no constitutional guaranty was denied these men. The case from Gray, Ga., is found in 21 Fed. (2nd) 964, Johnson vs. Dunnaway. The Downer case is found in 53 Fed. (2nd) 586, Downer vs. Dunnaway. In the 237 U. S. 424, a case of this character in Georgia, in which the defendant was a white man and the supreme court held that the federal court had no jurisdiction.

Judge Moseley, in whose district the recent case occurred, is a man of unusual integrity and ability, second to no judge of the federal court at New Orleans or of the United States. He was placed in the position of "be damned if you do" and "be damned if you don't."

Under the law as now applied in our federal courts of this state, all a criminal has to do in escaping punishment, is to commit a crime so heinous as to be beyond human endurance and he will under the law and existing conditions of public opinion go free, because no place can be found where he may be tried.

Certain misguided citizens here and from "up north" share in the responsibility. They make it possible for the criminal to think that he will escape a just and swift punishment, just because he is a negro. They are actually trying to prevent the application of the same punishment to the lowest type of a criminal, that the south applies to white and black alike.

Witness the effect of the decision of the supreme court of the United States in the Scottsboro cases. Since that decision rape cases have increased in the south over 300 per cent, especially in the states of Georgia, where the Downer case occurred, and in Alabama, where the Scottsboro cases have turned the laws of justice upside down. Only a few weeks ago, the federal court at Macon freed a guilty negro after a fair trial and conviction upon the sole ground that he had to be protected by state militia, when being brought to trial.

Relative to the Downer case, it is true that more lying was done about that trial than any case I know anything about. Even the now famous New Jersey case of Hauptmann fades into fantasy when compared to that case. If ever a case was fairly tried, that one was, for all evidence in the defendant's favor was admitted, hearsay and otherwise. Under his own statement on the witness stand, the defendant stated that he gave another negro his shoes in order for him to go up and commit the crime, while he sat on the roadside to wait until he returned and told Downer that he had committed the crime. Downer was under the law accessory to the fact, before and after the crime was committed and as such, the jury was authorized to convict him of the crime. Under the Georgia law, an accessory before the fact must be punished to the same extent as the principal. The prosecution was handled by the now Congressman Paul Brown and the defendant had three capable attorneys to defend him and the trial was very fair. For his honest and capable work this very fine judge was criticized and abused by people who are thought by the local population to have received money for their slander of the judge and the defendant's attorneys. Many local or state papers printed such scurrilous statements, either with or without pay. Missionaries were sent into the town to investigate and spent money there, and as one good negro said to me, they were just making it hard for the honest and law abiding negro who never condoned the commission of the crime.

A GEORGIA LAWYER.

Atlanta, Ga., April 30, 1936.

ROYSTON INNOCENT.

Editor Constitution: The people of Royston are law-abiding and peaceable. For this reason we approve the controlling spirit of your editorial of this morning, "Crucifying Georgia." However, we have every right to resent the publicity given our little city through the medium of the press and the radio directly connecting us with a lynching of which we not only were entirely innocent but totally unaware until the following morning.

Aside from our policemen who unfortunately permitted peace officers from afar to temporarily lodge this criminal in our local lockup, not a single other person, so far as we are able to learn, had any knowledge whatever of his having been brought through a circuitous route to Royston, instead of being returned to the Fulton tower or some county jail as should have been done by the officers who had him in charge. Not only was both the scene of the crime and that of the lynching no less than 20-odd miles from Royston, but not a single Roystonian had a hand in either his coming or going or his being put to death by a mob.

Not only did the bar and citizenry of Frankin county pass and publish resolutions highly commending Judge Berry T. Moseley for dispersing the first mob, but we are believers in law enforcement generally speaking, and deplore the publicity given us not only in this matter, but also as regarded a murder case the first of the week, reported under a Royston date line.

THE ROYSTON RECORD,
H. H. DYOR, Editor.
J. C. DOYLE, Mayor.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
May 3, 1936

The Problem Of The Mob.

Two Negroes have been lynched within the st week, one in Arkansas and the other in eorgia. Aroused by these crimes against ciety, R. B. Eleazer of Atlanta, Educational Director of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, gave out an interview a day or two ago in which he proposed that trials of Negroes accused of attacking white women be lifted out of an atmosphere of violence. Mr. Eleazer suggested the mandatory change of venue as a possible guard against lynchings.

One difficulty is that mobs no longer presume to visit death only upon Negroes accused of crimes against white women. They lynch Negroes and even whites for alleged offenses for which, if the victims were tried and found guilty, they would only be subject to a fine or a short term in jail. In other words, mobs kill white men and colored men, and sometimes white women and colored women, who have committed nothing more serious than misdemeanors. Another difficulty is that mobs take prisoners from the hands of officers even before the officers have had a chance to place the prisoners in jail, much less bring them to trial.

But no mistake would be made if the States acted upon Mr. Eleazer's suggestion. Making changes of venue mandatory would tend to lift trials out of an atmosphere of violence, thereby assuring fairer trials, and it might prevent a lynching now and then. That would be worth while. Prevention of mob murders is a question and a problem which should have the immediate and serious attention of the States. State Legislatures should give earnest study to the problem and enact laws designed to wipe out the disgrace of lynching. Few States have really taken proper steps in the direction of suppressing mob lawlessness.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.
GAZETTE

MAY 4 - 1936

Commends Gazette Editorial On Lynching at Lepanto.

To the Editor of the Gazette:

Please accept my sincere congratulations upon your splendid editorial regarding the Lepanto lynching. My only criticism is that you did not run it on your front page. There are those persons you know, who stay clear of the editorial page, it might cause them to give birth to a thought. Hitting between the eyes proves effective quite often.

In my opinion, the last line of your editorial is an excellent answer to the question: What's wrong with Arkansas? Yes, I know there are hundreds of people who will stand up and shout to the tops of their voices that there's nothing wrong with Arkansas and hope that the noise will drown out all just and honest criticism.

But we have only to compare the well-laid plans for the Texas Centennial with our own hazy, everything's-going-to-be-fine attitude regarding Arkansas's Centennial to realize that the great mass of the people in this state see no farther than the ends of their noses. Their vision is not big enough to take in the entire state and so they allow themselves to be involved in a lynching the news of which will go all over the country.

Please continue your fearless editorial policy. Arkansas needs it.

Little Rock. Young Arkansan.

Lynchings - 1936
Discussions

White Press, Southern.

5295

COLUMBUS, MISS.
Commercial Dispatch

JUN 4 - 1936

NEEDS A GOOD SKINNING

HERE'S an editor that needs a first class skinning.

He's the little mis-fit who sits at the apex of the editorial tripod of the Baltimore Sun.

Read this slander and reflection on Mississippi hidden behind a veiled, left-handed compliment to Alabama:

> The Supreme Court of Alabama yesterday ordered a new trial for a Negro, given 30 years for killing a white man, on the ground that the sentence was "excessive" and was "actuated by passion or race prejudice."
>
> What in the world has happened to Alabama? Repeatedly, within the last year or so, when lynching mobs have formed, some Alabama sheriff has turned on the mob with such ferocity that the would-be lynchers have slunk away like so many whipped curs. We repeat, for emphasis, this has happened, not once, and not with one sheriff, but several times and with several different officers on the spot. Apparently Alabama is developing a definite dislike for lynching.
>
> This is not a regional advance, for her neighbors on either side go merrily ahead with their gala murders. The thing is peculiar to Alabama. Now the Supreme Court of the same State takes the position that in Alabama even a Negro who kills a white man must be given just the punishment that a white man would be given in the same circumstances.
>
> Whether this is due to an Alabama resolution to afford the Negro equal and exact justice, or merely to a desire not to be like Georgia, on one side, and Mississippi, on the other, is not clear. But whatever the motive, the result is admirable.

The Alabama Supreme Court spoke in the best tradition of the white South in its opinion that the Lowndes county negro was entitled to a new trial.

The opinion was expressed with a force and eloquence that redounds to the credit of Alabama and all courts everywhere.

But for a little pewee editor to cast aspersions on Mississippi and other Southern States, is going just a little too far.

He is grossly ignorant of conditions in the South where the negro lives under the happiest conditions and under the best protection he has anywhere, better than in Maryland and in some other States further North.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
AGE HERALD

MAY 30 1936

Justice Marches On

In Birmingham the other day a Negro, identified by a white woman as having been her assailant, was nevertheless acquitted by a white jury presumably largely on testimony also by white persons that at the time of the assault the defendant was at work in another place. The case was a striking instance of Southern justice in behalf of the colored man. It was also another eloquent argument against the enormity of mob action.

Soon after that verdict a jury of white men in the Federal Court at New Orleans awarded damages to the parents of a Negro lynched by a mob which a sheriff's deputies were alleged to have assisted. In effect, the verdict was another telling blow for racial justice and against violence in the name of justice.

Now comes a notable decision by the Alabama Supreme Court granting a new trial to a Negro sentenced to 30 years for the alleged killing of a white man.

The reversal was on the grounds that the sentence was "excessive and unjust" and the result of "passion or race prejudice." Chief Justice John C. Anderson's opinion held that the Negro should not have been convicted for more than first degree manslaughter, conceding that he fired the shot. Said the chief justice in part:

> The record discloses the most reprehensible conduct on the part of the deceased and his companions, the state's two witnesses, who invaded the sanctity of a helpless old Negro woman, terrorizing the inmates, and for the evident purpose of prostituting her granddaughter or for some other improper purpose.

The Negro was an uncle of the old woman's granddaughter, and, Justice Anderson said, "may not have acted strictly in self defense from a technical standpoint, conceding that he fired the fatal shot," which the defendant denied.

The defendant's counsel offered in evidence an alleged confession by another Negro that he fired into the room where the white man was killed, but the evidence was not admitted.

After the shooting, the Negro, now granted a new trial, fearing mob violence, immediately surrendered to a deputy sheriff and was taken to Montgomery for safe-keeping.

"Had all parties been of the same race," the chief justice continued, "or if conditions had been reversed, we feel sure that there would have been a different verdict and that the present one was actuated by passion or race prejudice; not perhaps from corrupt motives, but from an inborn and uncontrollable antagonism between the two races, when a Negro kills a white man or when a white man kills a Negro—an antagonism that seldom exists in the administration of justice by the strong to the weak for the commission of most other offenses."

One day racial antagonism, indiscriminate, unjust and dangerous, may be neither "inborn" nor "uncontrollable" anywhere in the South. Chief Justice Anderson's opinion, concurred in by Justices Lucien D. Gardner, Virgil Bouldin and A. B. Foster, is itself one of the magnificent evidences that this antagonism is not everywhere inborn or uncontrollable. On the contrary, it, the verdicts referred to above and many other signs may be taken as indications of how far the South is moving away from old antagonisms — antagonisms that are blind, however easily understandable they may be.

DURHAM, N. C.
HERALD

JUN 5 - 1936

FRANKLIN COUNTY JUSTICE

Nothing succeeds, they say, like success and that seems to be applicable in the case of Franklin county mobs. Some time back a mob relieved a sheriff of his prisoner, a crazed Negro, and put another lynching blot on this state. This week another Franklin county mob broke in the Franklinton jail, seized a prisoner, inflicted bodily punishment and either let him go or failed to watch him close enough. Any way, the victim escaped, stopped off for medical treatment and hit it out for the tall timbers.

As this is written, the word is that Franklin county and Franklinton officers are searching for the flogged prisoner. The inference being that officers of the law are concerned about putting the "escapee" back in jail but are not so concerned about bothering to chase down those who took the prisoner from jail and punished him according to their particular wishes.

It may be that the last victim deserved the beating he apparently got. Presumably he deserved punishment of a kind. Otherwise he would not have been in jail. And one can, if he likes, say that the poor creature lynched months back received about what was coming to him. No one, however, who believes in orderly society and has any sort of respect for the laws society has established for itself, can countenance mob action. And when one mob stages a lynching and gets away with it, as happened in Franklin county not so long ago, when another mob comes along and goes part of the way in the same direction, thinking people are enticed to belief that somebody has and is doing a mighty poor job of protecting the law in that county.

GREENSBORO, N. C.
RECORD

JUN 6 - 1936

"Justice" In Franklin.

A few months ago in Franklin county an unmasked mob, in broad day light near a public highway, relieved a sheriff and deputies of their prisoner, a crazed negro, and smeared the state's escutcheon with another lynch blot.

Much adoo was made over this dastardly crime; officials in Franklin and in Raleigh promising rigid investigation and prompt action. But to this day nothing has come of these gestures toward law enforcement—these promises!

Now Franklin is in the headlines again. A few days ago another Franklin county mob broke into the county's jail, seized a prisoner, beat him up and permitted him to escape. The victim paused only long enough to get medical treatment in his mad rush for parts unknown.

As this is written the Franklin officials have not yet apprehended the fugitive and neither have they identified any of the mobsters.

This is not surprising in view of the sorry flop of the so-called investigation that followed the lynching of the insane negro.

Living Church
Milwaukee-Wis

MAY 30 1936

A Blow Against Lynching

IF THE PRECEDENT set by a Louisiana jury last week is followed, it may be unnecessary for a Federal anti-lynching measure to be passed. The jury awarded to the parents of a Negro boy, hanged by a mob, $2,500 in a judgment against the sheriff and his bondsmen for negligence in the conduct of his duty. Not so long ago it would have been virtually impossible to get a jury in that part of the country to take such strong action against lynching, and perhaps even more significant than the material avenue of attack opened by the decision is the proof it offers of increasing popular opinion against this blot on American civilization. But local public opinion is notoriously fickle when such matters are concerned, and Federal legislation would be an invaluable buttress to law and order as against mob action.

Indirect Justice

ON NOVEMBER 30th of last year, three labor organizers were flogged in Tampa, Florida. One of them, Joseph Shoemaker, died as a result of his injuries. Six Tampa policemen were brought to trial in the case and were convicted, not of the murder of Shoemaker, but of kidnapping one of his companions. This odd verdict was a surprise even to the prosecuting attorney, who asserted that the court's charge to the jury was virtually a directed verdict of not guilty.

The trial was in large part a battle ground for political philosophy, as the defense attorney defended the action of the six defendants on the ground that the labor organizers were Communists. This was shown by the fact that the three men had agitated for organization among tobacco workers, whose living conditions and wages are a blot on American social life. In the course of investigation of the death of Shoemaker and kidnapping of his companion considerable evidence was collected to show a close relationship between the Ku Klux Klan, business leaders, and un-American Fascist activities against labor.

Citizens of Tampa were thoroughly aroused by the condition disclosed in the investigation and the trial was the result of a popular demand.

CHARLESTON, S. C.
NEWS COURIER

JUN 10 1936

They Kindle Flames

From the letter of Walter White, negro leader of New York attacking Senator Byrnes—"whose state has staged 180 lynchings since 1882." Since 1882 fifty-four years have passed, and it would have been fairer to say since 1920. If, however, every killing of a negro in which three or half a dozen men engage is to be defined as a "lynching", the surprise is that the number is not greater—and in New York city and Chicago scores of similar lynchings have been "staged" in the same years. It may also be mentioned that in New York city in the last two years has been more "race rioting" than in South Carolina in the last thirty-seven. In the Chicago riots after the World War probably more negroes were massacred than have been lynched in South Carolina since the negroes first landed on its soil. The relations between the races in South Carolina are, relatively, satisfactory, and The News and Courier affirms now that the principal danger to them is from Walter White and his associates. He is taking on a responsibility which no good man invites. He does not mean it, he does not know it, but he and his New York associates are the immediate peril to the Southern negroes. Some of the Northern negroes, Communists among them, would like to see a revival of the lynching industry, they want "object lessons," but White, we believe, is not one of them.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
May 30, 1936

Justice Marches On

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Soon after that verdict a jury of white men in the Federal Court at New Orleans awarded damages to the parents of a Negro lynched by a mob which a sheriff's deputies were alleged to have assisted. In effect, the verdict was another telling blow for racial justice and against violence in the name of justice.

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The reversal was on the grounds that the sentence was "excessive and unjust" and the result of "passion or race prejudice." Chief Justice John C. Anderson's opinion held that the Negro should not have been convicted for more than first degree manslaughter, conceding that he fired the shot. Said the chief justice in part:

> The record discloses the most reprehensible conduct on the part of the deceased and his companions, the state's two witnesses, who invaded the sanctity of a helpless old Negro woman, terrorizing the inmates, and for the evident purpose of prostituting her granddaughter or for some other improper purpose.

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After the shooting, the Negro, now granted a new trial, fearing mob violence, immediately surrendered to a deputy sheriff and was taken to Montgomery for safe-keeping.

"Had all parties been of the same race," the chief justice continued, "or if conditions had been reversed, we feel sure that there would have been a different verdict and that the present one was actuated by passion or race prejudice; not perhaps from corrupt motives, but from an inborn and uncontrollable antagonism between the two races, when a Negro kills a white man or when a white man kills a Negro—an antagonism that seldom exists in the administration of justice by the strong to the weak for the commission of most other offenses."

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Hazlehurst, Ga., Cracker
May 21, 1936

Three Georgia Lynchings Are Hit By Women

DECATUR-OXFORD W. M. S. PASSES RESOLUTIONS CONDEMNING MOB VIOLENCE

DECATUR, Ga., May 13.—Resolutions condemning "unreservedly the three lynchings which have been committed in Georgia this year," were passed by members of the Women's Missiinary Society of the Decatur-Oxford district, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at the annual conference held here today.

Pledging itself to "stand foursquare against mob violence for any cause," the society went on record as opposing "all emotional upheavals based on racial prejudice in our state, in our country and in our church." Mrs. E. C. McDowell, of Social Circle, district secretary, presided.

Lynchings-1936
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

5296

Raleigh, N. C. Observer
December 13, 1936

LYNCHINGS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

To the Editor: I feel that someone should call attention to the fact that North Carolina has fewer lynchings than any Southern State. From 1889 to 1933 statistics show that in this State there were only 66 lynchings, 57 Negroes and 9 whites being the victims. In Mississippi there were 462, Georgia 458, Louisiana 338, Alabama 303 and Virginia only 80. This record speaks for itself and is a credit to our State and its law-enforcing officials.

GEORGE P. PELL.

Raleigh.

Murphy, N. C. Scout
December 17, 1936

LYNCHING IN THE U. S.

Some interesting figures on lynching, long a scourge to the South, have recently been revealed in a table compiled by the Department of Rural Social-Economics of the University of North Carolina.

It shows that during the period 1889-1933 that there were 3608 lynchings. Of these 2912 were Negroes and 696 White. This, according to the report, represents a rate of 2.94 per 100,000 population.

In practically all of the states where the lynching rates are high far more Negroes than whites have been lynched. In Mississippi, for instance, there have been 438 Negro lynchings and only twenty-four white; in Georga 432 Negroes against twenty-six whites; and in Florida 225 Negroes against fourteen whites. On the other hand, there are a few states with high lynching rates in which the lynchings have been confined largely to whites due to the fact that those states have very few Negro inhabitants. In Wyoming, for instance, there have been twenty-eight white lynchings and only five Negro. In Montana twenty whites against one Negro, and so on for several other states.

Perhaps the most striking feature of the table is the complete absence of lynchings in seven states of the Union and the District of Columbia, and only two lynchings in the state of New York with its enormous population. No lynchings are reported for Connecticut, Maine Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Vermont, for the entire period of forty-five years.

The United States average rate for the forty-one states reporting lynchings is 3.27 lynchings per 100,000 population. The seven states and the District of Columbia which reported no lynchings have 12,695,000 inhabitants, and if New York with her 12,588,000 inhabitants is included, we have in the northeastern part of the United States eight states with nearly twenty-five million inhabitants with only two lynchings in the last forty-five years. This is a phenomenal record which should cause some of the southern states to blush with shame.

During the last 45 years sixty-six lynchings are reported to have occurred in North Carolina. Of this total fifty-seven were Negroes and nine were whites. The rate is slightly more than two lynchings per 100,000 population for the forty-five year period.

Compared with the other southern states, North Carolina's low rate is rather commendable but only relatively so. Our rate is less than one-tenth the rate for Mississippi and considerably below the rate of all the other southern states unless Maryland and West Virginia are to be classed as southern.

Henderson, N. C. Dispatch
December 11, 1936

66 LYNCHINGS FOR N. C. IN 45 YEARS

All Victims Except Nine Were Negroes; All of States Are Shown

In a period of 45 years from 1889 to 1933 there were 66 lynchings in North Carolina, all of victims being Negroes except nine, according to a compilation in the current issue of the University of North Carolina News Letter. This record ranks the State 20th from the top, with 2.08 lynchings per 100,000 population as of 1930.

In 48 states and the District of Columbia, total lynchings for the period were 3,608, all colored except 696. Seven states and the District of Columbia had no lynchings at all during the period. The seven states are: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Vermont, all of them in New England, but one.

The state with the largest number of lynchings during the period, and heading the list, is Mississippi, which had 462 lynchings, 24 of them white and 438 Negroes. South Carolina had three white and 134 colored lynch victims, a total of 137, while Virginia reported nine white and 71 Negro victims, a total of 80.

Columbus, Ga. Ledger
December 29, 1936

No Comparison Necessary

Time and again attempts have been made to draw a comparison between lynchings in the north and the south, but the fact remains there is little difference between a lynching in the south and the mob slaughter of persons in the north. The method involved is the only difference, and if we line southern lynchings against the gang slaughters of the north, we will find that mob slayings above the Mason and Dixon line far outnumber lynchings reported in the south.

We have no respect for either, but do not feel that the south should continuously be shown in a bad light as a result of false comparisons. We cannot disassociate a lynching in the south, where a mob uses a rope to expedite a victim, from the killing of persons in the north by the use of a gun or a bomb.

The mob element is in evidence in each instance, and when we come to consider the cases which are recorded as a result of mob action we will find that those in the north outnumber those in the south many times; we also will find that mob violence is on the increase in the north, whereas it is on a decline in the south, where only nine cases were reported in 1936 against 20 the year previously.

We, of course regret that the hand of the mob has been raised once in the south, but must remind those who are prone to criticize and ridicule the south to take stock of conditions in their own bailiwicks before casting scorn upon the south.

Dixie is a land of peace-loving people who are not easily incensed, but we cannot say as much for some sections in the north where gang killers are ever ready for a kill, to take some unsuspecting person for a ride from which he never returns alive.

West Palm Beach, Fla. Times
December 29, 1936

THIS YEAR'S LYNCHINGS

Four Southern States stand under the indictment of having caused all the lynchings that are recorded for 1936. Florida, with one lynching, is included. The other States are Arkansas, with two; Georgia, five, and Mississippi, one.

Last year there were twenty lynchings in the United States. There were fifteen the year before. Lynchings became common again in 1933, when there were twenty-eight.

Lynching records have been kept since 1882. In that year there were 113, of whom 64 were white persons and 49 were negroes. The best record made was in 1932, when there was a total of eight, two whites and six negroes. The worst year for lynchings was in 1892, when 231 persons met death in this way. Of these, 69 were white, 162 black. In 1884, there were 211 lynchings, the only other time that the number exceeded 200.

With the exception of 1890, the number lynched did not go below 100 until 1901. It was 96 in 1890. Since 1901, the number has not reached 100 in any year. It

fell to 33 in 1923 and has not exceeded that number since. The average for the last ten years, in which 139 persons were lynched, becomes 13.9.

Since 1882 there have been a total of 4,672 lynchings, of whom about 1,295 were white, or more than one-third.

That the lynching spirit has not been quelled comes additionally in that officers of the law in 1936 prevented 35 instances of mob violence on prisoners. Thirty of these were in Southern States, five in Northern. It is estimated that in these 35 instances there were saved from mobs seven white persons and sixty-two negroes.

While other nations of the earth engage in pogroms now and then, actual lynching is almost exclusively an American trait. That it does not rest solely on the color line is indicated by the statistics given showing more than one-third of our lynchings based rather on the alleged crime committed.

Spencer, N. C. Journal
December 17, 1936

Lynchings In United States

1889-1933

(From U. N. C. News Letter)

There appears elsewhere in this issue of a News letter a table which ranks the states according to the number of lynchings per 100,000 population for the forty-five year period from 1889 to 1933 inclusive. The table is based on statistics from the 1936 New York World Almanac as kindly supplied by Mr. Alexander B. Andrews of Raleigh.

The world Almanac reports 5,608 lynchings in the United States during the last forty-five years. Of these 2,912 were negroes and 696 were whites. In practically all of the states where the lynchings rates are high far more negroes than whites have been lynched. In Mississippi, for instance, there have been 438 negro lynchings and only twenty-four white; in Georgia 432 negroes against twenty-six whites; and in Florida 225 negroes against fourteen whites. On the other hand, there are a few states with high lynching rates in which the lynchings have been confined largely to whites due to the fact that those states have very few negro inhabitants. In Wyoming, for instance, there have been twenty-eight white lynchings and only five negro. In Montana twenty whites against one negro, and so on for several other states.

Perhaps the most striking feature of the table is the complete absence of lynchings in seven states of the Union and the District of Columbia, and only two lynchings in the state of New York with its enormous population. No lynchings are reported for Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Vermont, for the entire period of forty-five years.

The United States average rate for the forty-one states reporting lynchings is 3.27 lynchings per 100,000 population. The seven states and the District of Columbia which reported no lynchings have 12,695,000 inhabitants, and if New York with her 12, 588,000 inhabitants is included, we have in the northeastern part of the United States eight states with nearly 25 million inhabitants with only two lynchings in the last forty-five years. This is a phenominal record which should cause some of the southern states to blush with shame.

During the last 45 years sixty-six lynchings are reported to have occured in North Carolina. Of this total 57 were negroes and nine were whites. The rate is slightly more than two lynchings per 100,000 population for the 45 year period.

Compared with the other southern states, North Carolina's low rate is rather commendable but only relatively so. Our rate is less than one-tenth the rate for Mississippi and considerably below the rate of all the other southern states unless Maryland and West Virginia are to be classed as southern.

[illegible]
12-[illegible]-36

12-25-36
[illegible]

AH, THAT'S DIFFERENT.

The stock argument of southern statesmen [illegible] federal anti-lynching [illegible] their symbolism as th[illegible] problems contained therein [illegible] distinctly the problems of the southern states, that these states and their leaders are most familiar with the questions involved and that their commonwealt[illegible] should thus be left to do their [illegible] legislating and regulating in [illegible] particular field. Or, to put it baldly, the south knows the negro and the south is therefore best qualified to deal, in its own way, with problems in which he is the central figure.

While that contention brings on infinite argument, the Daily News is not moved to go into it just here but rather to use it as a background, against which another somewhat similar issue may be projected by way of contrast.

What the negro question is to the south, the foreign problem is to other sections of the country, particularly the eastern centers such as New York and Boston. Such an issue, centering around immigration, must necessarily be handled through and by Washington and the best that can be done is provision of an elasticity, a discretion, which will permit the federal authorities to use their judgment, their sense of decency and humanitarianism in dealing with the matters involved and in accordance with the wishes and sentiment of the states most vitally concerned.

That is where the now blocked Coolidge-Kerr bill comes into the picture. While its sponsorship is concurred in by a North Carolina representative, who could hardly do less in a spirit of fairness from the states which are not affected, it springs primarily from the sections which have a large foreign population and whose representatives and senators thus deserve greater consideration in their approval or disapproval of legislation which will make possible the better solution of their peculiarly sectional problems. A Massachusetts senator is co-author of the bill in question, and legislators from other centers where applicable and decent approach is appreciated and desired were among its supporters. Yet, in the face of this situation a North Carolina senator, boasting that the population of his own state is 99 44-100 per cent American, blocks passage and essays to dictate to more vitally concerned, yet tolerant and liberal states.

When these self-same states, without any negro issue, in any wise gang up to get more adequate protection and constitutional rights for the south's black man, oh boy, what a difference that is and what an oratorical thunder storm roars, rattles and strikes the capitol.

Lynchings-1936
& Discussions.

White Press, Southern

5299

KILBY'S WAR ON ALABAMA MOBS

In its comment on The Advertiser's recent editorial regarding the uniformly creditable record of Alabama governors in opposing mob violence, The Anniston Star draws particular attention to the noble record of its neighbor, former Governor Thomas E. Kilby.

Says The Star:

This case gives further proof that lynchings often can be prevented by prompt and determined work on the part of those in authority. And in this connection it also would be well to mention the fact that vigorous and fearless application of the force of the law in the punishment of lynchers can also be made a forceful deterrent in dealing with such crimes. Furthermore, we should not overlook the record of Alabama in this respect in recent years for in that may be found concrete evidence of what can be accomplished in the way of obtaining convictions at trials when the authorities, particularly the chief executive of the State, are willing to prosecute suspected lynchers without fear or favor.

4-9-36

During the 30-year period from 1900 to 1930, other states convicted 33 defendants charged with taking part in lynchings, while in two years of Governor Kilby's administration 34 were found guilty in Alabama. In the entire period of 30 years 37 lynchers were convicted in Alabama against 33 for all other states, which reveals a very creditable record for this State. But the striking fact in regard to Alabama's record is that 34 of the 37 lynching convictions obtained in the State in three decades were returned during the Kilby administration.

These facts are revealed in a report of Dr. Arthur F. Raper, research and field secretary of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, contained in a booklet entitled "The Mob Still Rides." This report gives a clear and comprehensive summary of the lynching record of the country and presents the problem in a manner calculated to impress thoughtful citizens interested in the elimination of crimes of this nature, but it seems that through oversight or otherwise an injustice has been done Alabama and Governor Kilby in that no mention is made of the conviction in this State and especially those obtained in the Kilby administration.

Nothing is said to call attention to a case in which the duty of the State and its chief authority has been discharged. Not one word is given in praise of the single State in which apparently a real effort was made during one administration to convict and punish lynchers—not even a word in recognition of this noteworthy achievement.

On the other hand, under sub headings "Lynchers Seldom Punished" and "Why Lynchers Go Unpunished," numerous examples are given to illustrate the lack of willingness or ability on the part of law enforcement officers and juries to punish lynchers, with the conclusion that the figures show "only a few convictions and sentences seldom commensurate with the crime."

The record of the Kilby administration, however, will stand to his credit in history in this as in all his other accomplishments while serving the State as Governor. As the years pass, the Kilby administration looms larger and will loom still larger in the future as his record passes further into history.

There is no information that a mob could get that could not be obtained better by trained, responsible officials.

There is no service a mob could perform that could not be better performed by grand juries and petit juries.

No mob leader has any contribution to offer society that is comparable to the services of an honest, trained, responsible judge.

No mob is more conscientious in its devotion to the public interest than grand juries and petit juries, and all others connected with our courts.

In other words, the mob is not a good detective, it is not a wise and just jury, it takes no oath. The only thing a mob can do well is to kill. Anybody can kill.

It cannot be said that a mob is as impressive to the guilty man as a courtroom. It is not as impressive to those who may become criminals as a courtroom.

The courtroom is the symbol of the thing called the majesty of the law. Law is civilization's squirrel rifle over the mantle.

Even juries sometimes err, despite all the precautions against error that custom and law require. How much greater is the chance of error in an angry, undisciplined, uncritical mob!

If a mob made no errors in selecting the guilty man, the mob could be condoned, at least theoretically. But the mob is not only unnecessary, it is given to horrible blunders. It has no defense, it can make no rational claim to justification. A mob is not better than a jury. It is plainly worse.

And so Alabama may well take pride in the high ground that its Governors have traditionally taken. We are especially glad of an opportunity to join with The Anniston Star in calling attention to the brave, bold services of Thomas E. Kilby in this regard.

Birmingham, Ala. News
March 31, 1936

Good Work In A Bad Case

The horrible atrocity at Huntsville has shocked and saddened all Alabama. Feeling naturally is intense, particularly in the home community of pretty, 19-year-old Miss Vivian Woodward, over the brutal attack which resulted in her death. There is the deepest sympathy for her family.

Because this crime was so heinous and so revolting, the attempt to lynch one or more of four suspects is understandable. That a lynching was prevented by the prompt and courageous work of the officers, in these circumstances, attests not only to their devotion to duty, but also to the forbearance of many citizens of Huntsville.

Yet this case, bad as it was, gives impressive support to those—and they are undoubtedly in the great majority—who oppose lynching, regardless of the provocation. For apparently, if there had been a lynching at Huntsville, the victim or victims would have been innocent. The officers say that they do not believe any of the four Negroes arrested were directly connected with the crime, although they think it probable that one of them can give information about the man who committed it. Certainly, if that is true, the information will be forthcoming and may lead to the arrest, conviction and punishment of the guilty one.

The task of tracking down the fiend who perpetrated this crime and bringing him to justice should be the duty of every law enforcement officer in Alabama from now on until success crowns the search. That is to say, every officer, wherever located, should be constantly on the watch for the Negro who the Huntsville officers believe is the guilty one, and whom they have described. All possible cooperation should be, and surely will be, given to the Huntsville authorities. This man-hunt ought to be as wide and as thorough as it can be made, and continued until he is found, or until every possibility of tracking him down has been exhausted.

Let us spare nothing to see justice done in this case. But let us have justice done by the law.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
April 9, 1936

ONE REASON WHY THOUSANDS WILL ALWAYS VOTE 'DRY' IN ALABAMA

WE reprint here a portion of an Associated Press dispatch. It is an editorial in itself. Read it. It vividly tells the reason why many thousands of white men and women of Alabama will never vote the stamp of approval on the sale of whiskey:

"A confession in the attack and slaying of 19-year-old Vivian Woodward, Huntsville girl, was said by H. H. Linch, special investigator for the State Highway Patrol, to have been obtained Monday night from Walter Miller, 28-year-old Negro.

"The Negro said he first struck the girl and then attacked her.

"He said he first saw the girl near a store, seized her from behind, picked her up and carried her about 150 feet, holding one hand over her mouth. This was at the point at which she was later found.

"The Negro admitted hitting the girl with a brick. The officers said they had a brick in their possession which had hair and blood stains on it.

"The Negro further said that about two or three hours before the attack he had bought some liquor and that he drank this liquor. He said he then hung around a while and peeped into the bedroom of another family.

"After 'hanging around' for an hour or so, the Negro said, he saw Miss Woodward.

"It was at that point, the Negro said, that he seized the girl and carried her off. After the attack, the prisoner further said, he went to a warehouse on Jefferson Street and threw away his vest and shirt, later found."

Tarboro, N. C. Southerner
April 2, 1936

Lynchings and the Law

Editorial writers, radio commentators and, indeed, the gentle public, have all been too ready to lament the spirit of mob violence following each and every lynching in the land and too shy about placing the blame where at least part of it belongs; that is, on the shoulders of the officers of the law whose fear or indifference makes lynchings possible.

While mob action is of course lamentable, it is also a fact largely overlooked that the mob would have no opportunity to exercise its madness if proper precautions to deter it were the rule in all communities. The Raleigh News and Observer, editorializing on lynching, makes this observation: "Lynching is a crime all but impossible in a state and community where officers are determined to uphold their oaths to uphold the law." This statement needs no explanation. It should be obvious to anyone who will permit his mind to approach the subject fairly.

Last year 89 persons were saved from lynching by intelligent and fearless action on the part of the officers. But in many other instances, lynchings occurred which could have been prevented had the officers exercised the necessary efforts. That 89 persons were saved from being lynched is not enough. While the fact is commendable, it should not be the part of the subject to receive emphasis. Rather, it should be secondary to the thought that in many other cases, persons were lynched because the two necessary factors were present: first, the spirit of the mob, and secondly, the lack of official performance of duty.

As we see it, this lack of performance of duty is the angle of the lynching situation which should receive the greatest emphasis of all. Obviously, there are certain types of persons in whom the madness which makes them want to lynch cannot be quelled. It is largely a waste of efforts to try to teach such people by reason and argument that lynching is wrong, for when fired to indignation and madness, reason flies out the window. But it is not a waste of effort to demand that law enforcement agencies should so highly regard their obligation to society that they will in all cases see to it that intended lynch victims be placed out of reach of their would-be lynchers. When all officers realize this duty, and only then, will lynching become a thing of the past.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
April 14, 1936

SIGNIFICANT OF A TREND.

Twice within a few weeks threatened and imminent lynchings have been prevented by State and county authorities in the heart of the South — once in Alabama and once, last Saturday, in Georgia. It is the more remarkable because lynchings in both of those States have been all too frequent in the past, even in recent years.

What happened at Danielsville, Ga., Saturday reflects credit upon the local authorities and the State. A negro farmer accused of laying violent hands upon a white girl had been arrested and while in custody had attacked two officers with a knife, seriously wounding one of them.

Although he denied the accusation of attack upon the girl and had not been proven guilty, the developed situation was ripe for a lynching when authorities took steps to prevent it. A mob estimated at 150, doubly angered by the alleged attack upon a female and the assault upon the officers with a knife, had begun battering at the jail to get the negro.

Special credit is due 74-year-old Judge BERRY MOSELEY, who arose from a sick bed, went to the jail and ordered the mob to "stop violating the law by breaking into the jail."

Sheriff HENLEY set a worthy example for other sheriffs in promptly deputizing about 100 citizens to assist him in protecting the prisoner.

Although local authorities had the mob quieted before the National Guardsmen arrived from Gainesville and hauled the negro away to Athens, in another county whoever ordered the troops to Danielsville deserves the thanks of the State of Georgia and other Southern States, for taking prompt steps to prevent a Southern lynching. Presumably the guardsmen were ordered to the scene by Governor TALMADGE.

The Georgia incident, following close on the heels of a similar affair in Alabama, is noteworthy and may possibly be significant of a new trend in the attitude of some Southern communities toward lynching.

When State and county authorities in Georgia take prompt, drastic and effective measures to prevent the threatened lynching of a negro guilty of seriously wounding officers of the law after he has been accused of an attempted assault upon a white girl — it is significant of something, if nothing more than the will and determination of the authorities involved to maintain order and the majesty of the law.

The recent instances of prevention of lynchings in Georgia and Alabama may mean a new day is dawning in the South so far as lynchings are concerned. Let us hope so.

But a North Carolina newspaper should have little to say about lynchings in other States without adverting to the fact that a lynching occurred within 30 miles of the capital of this State last August and not an arrest has yet been made nor any indictment returned, although the victim was taken from the sheriff and two deputies by a group of 20 or 25 men, all without disguise, in noonday sunlight — and he was not even accused of laying hands upon a white woman either.

Alabama and Georgia sheriffs have set a worthy example for some North Carolina sheriffs.

GREENSBORO, N. C.
NEWS

APR 16 1936

IN THE WAKE OF A LYNCHING.

Closely upon the refreshing spectacle of two lynchings prevented by alert and courageous authorities in Alabama and Georgia comes further evidence of the gross injustice which mobs may commit, and the Daily News is constrained to say frequently do, in execution of innocent victims.

There is no way of establishing guilt except through due processes, trial before a jury with full and fair presentation of the evidence and exclusion, insofar as judicially possible, of passion, prejudice and emotionalism. It is barbarous, inhumane, atrocious and disrespectful of the law to lynch anyone. How much more horrible is the mobbing of an innocent person?

That is a question which should be asked over and over again by individual citizens who may at some time have the urge to become mobsters and by officials sworn to protect human life and to see that the majesty of the law is sustained. It is a question which, more than that crashes into the very midst of the horrifying picture of mob rule, with a revelation which has followed that Alabama lynching only recently frustrated.

Remember the circumstances? A young white girl was attacked and killed near Huntsville. The usual manhunt was instituted. Bloodhounds were secured and followed a trail from the spot where the girl's body was found to a house occupied by four negroes. They were seized and were about to be strung up, one already had a wire around his neck, when state highway patrolmen sped to the scene upon orders of the governor, rescued the hapless quartet and carried them to jail, where troops were placed on duty and tear gas was used to disperse the mob which continued to press forward and threaten violence. Later, however, a fifth negro was picked up by officers. After his alleged confession, he was indicted by the grand jury and the four original suspects, who so narrowly escaped lynching, have now been released.

So there you are with not only a severe indictment of mobbery but also a rather effective commentary upon explicit faith in bloodhounds and utilization of highway patrolmen for mob-prevention purposes when speed is an essential factor, as it generally is.

Lynchings - 1936
Discussion.

White Press, Southern.

5300

ROYSTON NOT TO BLAME

Constitution
4-30-36
Atlanta, Ga.

It is pointed out in a communication, appearing elsewhere on this page, by J. H. Lee, leading citizen of Royston, that the people of this fine Georgia community are in no wise responsible for the lynching of the negro who last week was forcibly taken from the town jail by a mob composed of between 40 and 50 men.

Mr. Lee cites that the negro was brought to the small jail in Royston after authorities at Athens had refused to admit him to the jail in that city and when it became known that if kept at Danielsville, the county seat, there would be danger of violence. When the negro was taken from the Royston jail he was carried by the mob to the scene of his crime, some 20 miles away.

Certainly under the facts given by Mr. Lee no blame can be attached to the law-abiding and outstanding people of Royston.

While not condoning lynching, Mr. Lee emphasizes the difficulty of preventing such outrages as long as the existing delays and loopholes for the escape of the guilty remain in the legal processes in Georgia, and while outside meddling in the conduct of trials in the south continues.

The same warning is uttered in a forceful communication, also published elsewhere on this page, from a prominent lawyer of Georgia, with whose request that his name not be used we comply.

The Constitution does not attempt to place the blame for this brutal lynching, but certainly when it was necessary to call out the state guard to protect this culprit in transferring him to Atlanta for safekeeping, he should not have been carted from one jail to another in the neighborhood where the crime was committed, with apparently no precaution being taken to let the law take its course.

Back of it all, as pointed out in the communications published on this page, is the uncertainty and delay attending the trial of criminal cases under existing court procedure, not only in Georgia, but throughout the country.

The conviction of a guilty man is usually only the first step. Appeal follows appeal, generally based on technicalities having but little direct bearing on the prisoner's guilt or innocence, and months and years pass before punishment is applied—if, in the meantime, a loophole has not been found by which a clearly guilty man goes scot free.

There is no greater need in the state than a simplification of our legal processes and the elimination of the delays and loopholes that now exist in our court procedure.

CRUCIFYING GEORGIA

Constitution
4-30-36
Atlanta, Ga.

The lynching of a negro at Royston on the day before he was to be put on trial, and with his conviction assured, was a mockery of law and order that crucifies the state in the eyes of the whole country.

When this negro was arrested some weeks ago, charged with attempted assault, he was rescued from the hands of a mob by the courageous action of an aged judge, who arose from a sick bed to successfully plead with the mob that the law be permitted to take its course, and the state be saved from a blotch on its good name.

The mob dispersed and later a detail of the state militia brought the negro to Atlanta for safekeeping. Then the law proceeded to move swiftly and surely, the date for the negro's trial being set for less than a month after the commission of the offense with which he was charged, and in view of his positive identification by the victims of his attempted attack there was no doubt of his conviction and legal execution.

The barbarous manner in which the mob took matters in its own hands has the effect of crucifying Georgia. Flouting the efforts of a brave judge who had taken his life in his hands to save the negro from an earlier lynching, and had kept his promise for an early and speedy trial, the mob went about its gruesome business, with apparently no opposition from either local or state officers of the law.

Where the blame lies The Constitution does not know, but it seems strange that this culprit should have been returned for trial unprotected when his safety required the presence of national guardsmen only a few weeks earlier.

It is a sad commentary when a prisoner on the eve of his trial, and with the law moving swiftly and surely, is forcibly taken from jail and brutally and barbarously murdered.

MACON, GA.
TELEGRAPH

APR 29 1936

Mob-Violence Flares Again

The mob-murder of Lint Shaw, Negro farmer, in Madison County, eight hours before he was to be brought to trial on the charge of an attempted criminal assault, casts one more stigma on the state of Georgia and postpones the day for which so many friends of law and order had worked and hoped, when it might be said that Judge Lynch had permanently left his bloody bench.

The Negro had been placed in three different jails in order to guard him from mob violence. When he was first incarcerated in the jail at Danielsville, the aged Judge Berry T. Moseley rose from his sick bed to warn a gathering mob that he knew many of them by name and if they committed an unlawful act he would see that they were punished. He also instructed the sheriff of the county to deputize members of the crowd as officers of the law and demanded that they protect the prisoner.

This courage and presence of mind on the part of the judge and the ready acquiescence on the part of the sheriff saved the life of the Negro for the time being. He was then sent to Atlanta for safekeeping and also to be treated for wounds he had received when he was shot, following an attack upon two of the officers.

He was returned to Danielsville Monday night to await trial the following day before Judge Moseley, but when rumors arose that a mob still intended to make a jail delivery and lynch the priosner he was removed to Royston, where he was placed in what is described as a one-story jail.

A mob of 40 men apparently had no difficulty in overpowering the night chief of police, W. R. Dickerson, and after taking the prisoner to the scene of his alleged crime near Colbert, in Madison County, he was tied to a tree and shot to death. There is a familiar sound to the statement of the night chief of police, from whom the Negro was taken, that he did not recognize any of the mob.

Every red-blooded man is naturally stirred to righteous indignation at the crime this Negro is said to have committed, even though his attack was not successful. His viciousness in attacking the officers who were trying to convey him to safety was enough to stir resentment still further.

But none of these things can excuse the killing of the prisoner by mob violence. There was all the less excuse for it because, within eighteen days after the crime of which he was accused, during which time he had to have medical attention, he was to be brought to trial and one of the ablest and most impartial judges in the state would have presided. There was no reasonable probability that the Negro would have escaped proper punishment for whatever crime he had committed and the good name of the State would have been spared this additional stigma.

It has required many long years to reduce the number of yearly lynchings in the United States—and we include the whole country advisedly because it is beyond dispute that this is not exclusively a Southern problem. Some progress has been made, but Monday night's deplorable incident reminds us that we have not yet risen above the elemental savagery which is responsible for mob violence.

Time and again the warning has gone forth that unless there is an end to this thing of breaking into jails and lynching prisoners, or rescuing them from the hands of officers in order to wreak a summary vengeance, the day will come when a federal anti-lynching law will be passed. Certain influences thus far have been able to stave off this law, which in one form or another has been introduced in every Congress for many years. But the plea to let us set our own bouse in order will fall on deaf ears if there are many more such crimes as that of Monday night when a prisoner was dragged almost from the bar of justice and brutally done to death.

Justice and humanity had better assert themselves while there is yet time.

SUFFOLK, VA.
NEWS-HERALD

APR 13 1936

GEORGIA'S REDEMPTION

The state of Georgia has joined her sister, Alabama, in a determined effort to preserve her good name. The authorities acted quickly and by so doing prevented another mob murder. At Danielsville, in the Cracker State, a judge arose from a sick bed to assist in curbing the angry passions of the populace. Soldiers were sent to the scene to assure the prisoner safe convoy to the jail in Athens where he will be in no immediate danger of mob violence.

Apparently public sentiment among the people of the deep south is veering away from mob rule. We expect soon to see it spreading to other states in that part of the country. It is evident that the better class of the citizenry are making themselves felt in communities where black men commit atrocious crimes. They may be unable to put an end to such acts, but they can prevent the whites turning anarchists and commit-ing mass crime.

Of course the great majority of people in the south as in all parts of the country, condemn mob violence. Not a single respectable, law-abiding citizen condones lynching. That species of outlawry is as soundly condemned as other major crime. But some people in other parts of the country do not believe it.

Because it is extremely rare a white man is done to death by a mob, race prejudice is behind most lynching bees. There is an unwritten law that a black man may not lay violent hands upon a white woman. That has been extended in some states to include nearly all acts of violence toward the white race by the colored.

Hoodlums exist everywhere. This is the class which sets itself up as judge and jury in the south. Unfortunately the impression exists that lynching is generally approved and it has gained for the far southern states the reputation of being lawless.

It has kept capital out and probably many good citizens who would like to live in the south. The action of Alabama and Georgia in recognizing the sanctity of human life and in compelling their hoodlums to observe the law will restore confidence in their integrity.

Athens, Ga. Times
May 1, 1936

Lynching Our State

The Atlanta Constitution says: "The lynching of a Negro at Royston on the day before he was to be put on trial, and with conviction assured, was a mockery of law and order that crucifies the state in the eyes of the whole country."

The editor of the Constitution leaves the blame for the crime unplaced by stating: "Where the blame lies, the Constitution does not know, but it seems strange that this culprit should be returned for trial unprotected when his safety required the presence of the national guardsmen only a few weeks earlier."

Perhaps we can help the Constitution along a little.

Not many years ago the people of Georgia elected a Governor who is absolutely devoid of character or a regard for honesty or right or wrong.

It was that governor who paraded around the country on his second campaign tour pleading with the people to re-elect him and using as part of his platform his mercy and humane treatment of prisoners of the state penitentiary and chain gangs.

On his platforms while he spoke sat Leland Harvey and Aubrey Smith, two of the most notorious criminals Georgia has known. Convicted of offenses these men had been sentenced to more than 100 years in jail.

They had already illustrated their complete disregard for the laws of society by REPEATED CRIMINAL ACTS. They had escaped from chain gangs and prisons on numerous occasions.

The governor pardoned these notorious criminals and turned them back to society. Why? So that he could have another "popular" talking point to help EUGENE TALMADGE receive more power, more money and more opportunities to RELEASE MORE CRIMINALS.

Shortly after they were pardoned they tried to murder a federal officer when they were being taken to a trial in which they were accused of robbing a bank.

It has been found on frequent occasions that Eugene Talmadge is not governed by what he thinks is right or wrong but MORE BY HOW MUCH GOOD IT WILL DO GENE TALMADGE.

Perhaps those members of the mob that lynched Lint Shaw, realizing that Talmadge has seized control of the state government, realizing that Talmadge can (and has) even appointed judges to the Supreme Court to hear his own cases, perhaps those enraged citizens thought that some people with wealth or access to wealth might "influence" the governor into giving Lint Shaw life imprisonment or even liberty instead of the death that he certainly deserved if he attempted to commit the acts for which he was accused.

One thing that will do MORE to eliminate lynch law and mob rule in our state than anything else will be the PURGING of our corrupt state government—the installation of fearless and HONEST officials so that the LAWS may be enforced and penalties carried through without interference from cheap, dishonest, politicians with only the selfish lust for more power or material riches.

The citizens of Georgia should MARCH TO THE POLLS this year in a great and determined movement to ELECT HONEST AND CONSCIENTIOUS men to our offices of trust—men who will NOT violate their oath of office—MEN who are equipped with the COURAGE and INTEGRITY to perform their duty regardless of the BRIBES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONAL ACCUMULATION OF WEALTH AND POWER that are thrown in their paths.

Register before Saturday (the last day) so you can VOTE.

Lynchings-1936
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

5301

McComb, Miss. Journal
April 20, 1936

THE MOB STILL RIDES

Forty-one per cent of 84 negroes lynched in the last five years were either unaccused of crime or else were charged only with minor offense, according to a report made public today by the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, summarizing the results of a careful study of all the lynching of that period.

Appearing as a 24 page pamphlet, entitled "The Mob Still Rides," and citing numerous illustrative cases, the report states further that of the other 59 per cent of mob victims many were innocent of the crimes with which they were charged.

Only one-fourth of the victims were accused of actual or attempted assaults upon women, commonly thought of as the chief cause of lynchings, and in a number of these cases the commission's investigators could find no convincing evidence of guilt.

Officers sometimes connive at lynchings or even participate in them, courts rarely indict lynchers and more rarely convict, and mobs sometimes so dominate the courts as to bring about "legal lynchings," according to the report. On the other hand, a number of cases are cited in which officers successfully resisted or outwitted mobs.

Through the number of lynchings has declined since 35 years ago from a yearly average of 124 to an average of 17 for the last 10 years, the study reveals that the lynching habit fades more slowly from the south than from other sections of the country and becomes increasingly a racial phenomenon.

Among the remedies suggested by the report are more adequate police service, stronger jails, change of venue in the trial of lynchers and of persons threatened by mob violence, the lifting of community levels in lynching areas, and the building of a better public opinion.

KNOXVILLE, TENN.
NEWS SENTINEL

APR 29 1936

The Law Loses Again

ON APRIL 11, 74-year-old Judge Berry T. Moseley (may his tribe increase) got up out of a sick bed in Danielsville, Ga., and saved the life of a Negro by deputizing 100 members of the mob that was storming the jail with murderous intent.

"Stop violating the law," the Judge thundered. They stopped, and the Negro was moved under their protection to safety—for a time. Yesterday the same Negro's dead body was found riddled with bullets and tied to a pine tree.

This lynching adds another to the bloody record of the recent past. In a report called "The Mob Still Rides," the commission on inter-racial co-operation found that 84 persons have been lynched since 1931. Of these, nine were accused of no crime, 25 of minor offenses, only nine of rape. Indictments were returned against lynchers in only one lynching out of 12, convictions resulted in one out of 30, and in few cases was the punishment severe. Peace officers participated in several of these affairs and "connived at many more."

If any more evidence were needed than this record to convince Congress of the need of a Federal anti-lynching law, the latest Georgia outrage should furnish it. The evidence is that if Southern Congressmen had as much political courage as that one Southern judge revealed, the Federal remedy for lynching could be applied.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
April 30, 1936

Lost Valor

On April 11 in Danielsville, Ga., Judge Berry Moseley, 74 years old, rose from a sick bed in response to a sheriff's plea and by force of character and threats of the law, cowed a mob that was battering at the door of a jail in the effort to drag out a Negro prisoner charged with attempted assault on a white girl. The mob dispersed, and the prisoner was saved for trial as the law provides.

This conspicuous example of judicial courage and determination led the *Virginian-Pilot* to say then that—

Half the fight against the lynching disgrace will be won when all Southern judges manifest the acute solicitude for law observance and public decency that was shown by Judge Mosely and act with the same courage, and when this courage and determination on the bench is backed by swift and intelligent police work by the local officers aided, if necessary, by the National Guard.

On April 28, in nearby Royston, Ga., a mob of 40 men attacked the jail in which the same prisoner was held, eight hours before he was to go on trial. They broke into the small, one-story building at midnight, overpowered the jailer, smashed the lock on the prisoner's cell, dragged him out, tied him to a tree, and punctured his body with shotgun, pistol, and rifle bullets.

A lynching in Georgia is, unhappily, not an unusual incident. Even a lynching on the very eve of a trial in which, one may be sure, a Negro charged with attempted criminal assault on a white girl would get all that was coming to him is not unusual. But something important and precious is lost when a judge (or anyone else) acts as Judge Mosely did and succeeds in lifting the law above the insanity of the mob, only to have the mob in its turn smash the law itself 17 days later and satisfy its passion in this kind of mass-murder. Something is lost that is not easily rewon; courage and determination and justice and a fine human exemplification of the very spirit of the law. Georgia has given the country a tragic sequel to an inspiring act of judicial valor.

Portsmouth, Va. Star
April 18, 1936

LYNCHINGS CAN BE PREVENTED

(Bristol Herald Courier)

A dastardly crime was committed two weeks ago at Huntsville, Alabama, when a young white girl was criminally assaulted and then murdered. And another mob outrage was narrowly averted.

Bloodhounds picked up the trail at the scene of the crime and followed it to a house occupied by four Negroes. A mob was quickly organized and was defeated in its purpose only by prompt and proper action of the authorities.

Governor Bibb Graves ordered a concentration of highway patrolmen at Huntsville and later ordered out three National Guard companies. Tear gas was used to disperse the mob and the Negroes were hurried away to Birmingham for safekeeping.

The crime has been traced to another Negro, who was located at Terre Haute, Indiana, arrested and taken to Birmingham. He has now been indicted after authorities reported that he had made a full confession, and the four innocent Negroes have been released.

It is a matter for congratulation that Alabama and the South have been spared the deep disgrace of a lynching of which four Negroes guilty of no crime would have been the victims. It has been demonstrated once more that lynchings can be prevented. Their prevention depends upon the responsible authorities in communities where they are attempted.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
April 29, 1936

Mob-Violence Flares Again

The mob-murder of Lint Shaw, Negro farmer, in Madison County, eight hours before he was to be brought to trial on the charge of an attempted criminal assault, casts one more stigma on the state of Georgia and postpones the day for which so many friends of law and order had worked and hoped, when it might be said that Judge Lynch had permanently left his bloody bench.

The Negro had been placed in three different jails in order to guard him from mob violence. When he was first incarcerated in the jail at Danielsville, the aged Judge Berry T. Moseley rose from his sick bed to warn a gathering mob that he knew many of them by name and if they committed an unlawful act he would see that they were punished. He also instructed the sheriff of the county to deputize members of the crowd as officers of the law and demanded that they protect the prisoner.

This courage and presence of mind on the part of the judge and the ready acquiescence on the part of the sheriff saved the life of the Negro for the time being. He was then sent to Atlanta for safekeeping and also to be treated for wounds he had received when he was shot, following an attack upon two of the officers.

He was returned to Danielsville Monday night to await trial the following day before Judge Moseley, but when rumors arose that a mob still intended to make a jail delivery and lynch the priosner he was removed to Royston, where he was placed in what is described as a one-story jail.

A mob of 40 men apparently had no difficulty in overpowering the night chief of police, W. R. Dickerson, and after taking the prisoner to the scene of his alleged crime near Colbert, in Madison County, he was tied to a tree and shot to death. There is a familiar sound to the statement of the night chief of police, from whom the Negro was taken, that he did not recognize any of the mob.

Every red-blooded man is naturally stirred to righteous indignation at the crime this Negro is said to have committed, even though his attack was not successful. His viciousness in attacking the officers who were trying to convey him to safety was enough to stir resentment still further.

But none of these things can excuse the killing of the prisoner by mob violence. There was all the less excuse for it because, within eighteen days after the crime of which he was accused, during which time he had to have medical attention, he was to be brought to trial and one of the ablest and most impartial judges in the state would have presided. There was no reasonable probability that the Negro would have escaped proper punishment for whatever crime he had committed and the good name of the State would have been spared this additional stigma.

It has required many long years to reduce the number of yearly lynchings in the United States—and we include the whole country advisedly because it is beyond dispute that this is not exclusively a Southern problem. Some progress has been made, but Monday night's deplorable incident reminds us that we have not yet risen above the elemental savagery which is responsible for mob violence.

Time and again the warning has gone forth that unless there is an end to this thing of breaking into jails and lynching prisoners, or rescuing them from the hands of officers in order to wreak a summary vengeance, the day will come when a federal anti-lynching law will be passed. Certain influences thus far have been able to stave off this law, which in one form or another has been introduced in every Congress for many years. But the plea to let us set our own bouse in order will fall on deaf ears if there are many more such crimes as that of Monday night when a prisoner was dragged almost from the bar of justice and brutally done to death.

Justice and humanity had better assert themselves while there [illegible] time.

BLYTHEVILLE, ARK.
COURIER NEWS

MAY 1 - 1936

After All Those Years Without a Lynching

Arkansas had not had until this week a case of lynching in more than three and one-half years. That was a record no other strictly southern state except Virginia could equal, and few others could approach.

Now, when a mob at Lepanto, in Poinsett county, takes the law into its own hands, Arkansas has a lynching without the justification usually claimed for such outbreaks of lawless violence.

City Marshal Jay May of Lepanto, from whom the victim was taken by a crowd of masked men and shot to death, describes the 19-year-old negro as a "half-witted" youth. He was accused of attempted attack on a white woman. But he had not been formally charged with any crime, and had been told that no charges would be filed if he would leave the county and not return.

For reasons different from those ordinarily applying, this mob murder demands thorough investigation. If this young negro was half-witted, if his offenses was not serious cause enough for trying him and sending him to the penitentiary, or if because of his mental condition it seemed justice would best be served by simply telling him to get out of Poinsett county, in any case there had been no brutal, bestial crime to outrage the feelings of the Lepanto community. All this had to come in the year when Arkansas invites the whole nation to join in celebration of its centennial.

—Arkansas Gazette.

BRISTOL, VA.
HERALD-COURIER

MAY 3 - 1936

The Problem Of The Mob.

Two Negroes have been lynched within the last week, one in Arkansas and the other in Georgia. Aroused by these crimes against society, R. B. Eleazer of Atlanta, Educational Director of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, gave out an interview a day or two ago in which he proposed that trials of Negroes accused of attacking white women be lifted out of an atmosphere of violence. Mr. Eleazer suggested the mandatory change of venue as a possible guard against lynchings.

One difficulty is that mobs no longer presume to visit death only upon Negroes accused of crimes against white women. They lynch Negroes and even whites for alleged offenses for which, if the victims were tried and found guilty, they would only be subject to a fine or a short term in jail. In other words, mobs kill white men and colored men, and sometimes white women and colored women, who have committed nothing more serious than misdemeanors. Another difficulty is that mobs take prisoners from the hands of officers even before the officers have had a chance to place the prisoners in jail, much less bring them to trial.

But no mistake would be made if the States acted upon Mr. Eleazer's suggestion. Making changes of venue mandatory would tend to lift trials out of an atmosphere of violence, thereby assuring fairer trials, and it might prevent a lynching now and then. That would be worth while. Prevention of mob murders is a question and a problem which should have the immediate and serious attention of the States. State Legislatures should give earnest study to the problem and enact laws designed to wipe out the disgrace of lynching. Few States have really taken proper steps in the direction of suppressing mob lawlessness.

Salisbury, N. C. Post
April 29, 1936

DEPLORABLE

The lynching in Georgia was a deplorable happening. Georgia gained a credit mark a few weeks ago when the negro, accused of attempted assault, was saved from a mob through the pleadings of a judge who arose from a sick bed to plead that the law be allowed to take its course.

However, the mob spirit was not conquered. The prisoner was moved three times, and was to have been brought to trial this week. Yet, the mob took the law in its own hands and lynched the accused.

Georgia's credit mark is obliterated by this deplorable act. In its place, is a black spot on the state's record. Members of the mob have brought discredit upon themselves and their state. They refused to let the law take its course, and in this case, speedy action was to be expected as the case was set for trial this week.

SPARTANBURG, S. C.
HERALD

MAY 2 3 1936

Mob Law Discouraged

Yesterday a negro man was executed in Nashville for conviction upon a charge of assault. The case is important because of its history. While the defendant was on trial at Shelbyville in 1934, a mob undertook to storm the court house and seize him. Tear gas was used on the mob and, that failing to stop it, militamen who were on duty fired into the crowd killing three of its members instantly and wounding another who later died of his wounds.

Had the mob permitted the law to take its course four lives would have been saved. Led on by prejudice, anger and hate it attempted to take the administration of justice from the courts.

Another case of quite a different kind is reported from Louisiana. A negro, charged with assault, was taken from the sheriff and his deputies by a mob and lynched. The victim's parents lived in Arkansas and brought suit against the sheriff for $10,000. It was charged that the sheriff's deputies were guilty of aiding the mob. The case was tried in a federal court and a jury gave a verdict against the sheriff for $2,500.

In both cses justice triumphed. In the Tennessee case a mob was crushed, as it should have been, even though it cost several lives. In the Louisiana case a jury of southern men found a sheriff responsible, through misfeasance of his deputies, for the death of a prisoner and assessed damages against him payable to parents of the dead man.

The South has been subjected to much criticism for the existence of mob law. An effort now is being made to pass an anti-lynching bill in Congress which would infringe upon the rights of the states. If lynching parties and those who encourage them had been handled as were those in Tennessee and Louisiana this obnoxious piece of legislation would not have appeared in the Congress.

Lynchings-1936
6
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

5302

5302

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.
DEMOCRAT

MAY 12 1936

LYNCHING.

Because three negroes were lynched within a week, our brethren among the Southern editorial writers are very excited, telling us that perhaps, after all, the Warner-Costigan bill in Congress is the "solution." We are asked to believe that the measure, despite its plain injustices, will put an end to lynching.

The Richmond (Va.), Dispatch is not convinced that the bill will improve the situation, if it is passed, but it does believe that if such barbarities continue, there will be justification for such an extreme measure.

"Some leading lawyers think the bill is unconstitutional," says the Times-Dispatch. "But, granting the serious shortcomings of the measure, we are in a mood to try almost anything. Many Southerners have been so accustomed to reading that a lynching has taken place in Georgia, Mississippi or Florida that they apparently do not realize that the country in which we live is the only so-called civilized country in the world where such things occur."

No decent Southerner condones lynching. Yet, as was pointed out by a writer in the Democrat a few weeks ago, folks otherwise intelligent apologize for mob rule. They dragged out the old argument that so long as the courts failed to function mobs were justified.

Virginia, like Arkansas, and other states, has enough law to take care of such situations, and the state has been largely free from such barbarities in the last few years. This was due to the anti-lynching bill nearly a decade ago by Governor Byrd. an effective measure when it was enforced.

Montezuma, Ga., Georgian
May 21, 1936

Three Ga. Lynchings Assailed By Women

Decatur, Ga., May 13.Resolutions condemning "unreservedly the three lynchings which have been committed in Georgia this year," were passed by members of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Decatur-Oxford district, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at the annual district conference held here today.

Pledging itself to "stand foursquare against mob violence for any cause," the society went on record as opposing "all emotional upheavals based on racial prejudice in our state, in our country, and in our church." Mrs. E. C. McDowell, of Social Circle, district secretary, presided.

The resolutions follow:

"Without offering any excuse for the people of our state, we, members of the Methodist Missionary Society, working toward a Christian America, condemn unreservedly the three lynchings which have been committed in Georgia this year. We recognize that such violations of all the principles for which we stand as Christians and Americans will not cease, but will continue to grow as long as hatred, fear, and racial prejudice are used as weapons in political campaigns.

"Resolutions against lynching are ineffective unless we make our resolutions a passionate conviction which will not let us hold our peace as long as lynchings are committed.

"We pledge ourselves to stand foursquare against mob violence for any cause. We shall oppose all emotional upheavals based on racial prejudice in our state, in our country, and in our church."

ASHEVILLE, N. C.
TIMES

MAY 15 1936

PUBLISHERS TO OPEN THREE-DAY MEET MONDAY

Southern Association To Discuss Lynching, Other Public Problems.

Lynching and its treatment by the press is one of the principal topics scheduled for discussion when the Southern Newspaper Publishers association opens its meeting Monday at Grove Park inn.

~~"On the opening day of the three-~~day convention, Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames of Atlanta, executive director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, will speak on the subject: "Can newspapers harmonize an editorial policy against lynching and news stories of lynching?"

Announcing a change in the program, Cranston Williams, secretary and manager of the association, said that this year the meeting would consider mainly editorial problems rather than those of the business office.

Will Discuss Public Problems

"We are getting away from the business side of the newspaper," Williams said, "and have tried to arrange a program for discussion of public problems of the South." He added, however, that the association would not go into controversial matters or politics.

Mark Ethridge of the Louisville Courier-Journal and Times will address the convention on "The Changing Newspaper," and Dr. W. W. Alexander, of the Federal Resettlement administration, is preparing a talk of "What Can Be Done About Farm Tenancy?"

Several hundred publishers are expected to attend. The publishers have agreed to conduct the convention on an informal program, permitting the presiding officer to call up any item on the program at any time during the session.

Reports To Be Heard

A number of important reports were expected to be presented during the first two days of the convention. They will include:

Report of the president, Emanuel Levi, until recently of The Louisville (Ky.) Courier Journal and Times.

Report of the treasurer, Walter C. Johnson, Chatanooga (Tenn.) Times.

Report of the secretary-manager, Cranston Williams, of Chattanooga.

Report of the labor commissioner, Joseph G. Camp.

Report of the advertising committee, Herbert Porter, Georgian-American, Atlanta, chairman.

Report of the Lee School of Journalism committee, Maj. Powell Glass, Lynchburg (Va.) News and Advance, chairman.

Report of the newsprint manufacture committee, James G. Stahlman, Nashville (Tenn.) Banner, chairman.

Addresses will include "Schools of Journalism," Prof. O. W. Riegel, director of the Lee School of Journalism, Washington and Lee university; a discussion of a one-man engraving plant, by J. F. Donahue, Tyler, Tex., Telegraph and Courier-Times.

Will Elect Officers

Officers will be elected before the adjournment of the Tuesday morning session. A 1937 meeting place will be selected at the same time.

The golf tournament for members and guests will begin Tuesday afternoon.

A suggested list of topics for discussion includes:

Labor: "Labor leaders as well as many publishers agree that the 5-day week is permanent. Are publishers agreeing readily to six days' pay for five days' work?"

"With restrictions attempted by the typograhpical union on the ratio of apprentices, how are competent journeymen printers in sufficient number to be furnished in the future?"

"What efforts should publishers make to discourage organization in white-collar departments, due to the discontent over higher wage scales and continuous increases in such scales in organized departments?"

Editorial: "Are syndicates selling newspaper features to free circulation or 'throw-away' publications on sound ground?"

Business: "Attempts by the state of Florida to collect a documentary stamp tax on advertising contracts."

Advertising: "Is it economically sound to stress color?" "Should publishers exercise greater censorship over copy?" "Have advertising rates kept pace with rising costs?"

STRASBURG, VA.
Northern Virginia Daily

MAY 21 1936

DUPLICATING CRIME

A Leesburg Negro went on a drunken rampage yesterday and when officers sought to arrest him, he barricaded himself in his home and told them he would "duplicate Gordonsville" if they tried to enter the house and get him. Commonwealth's Attorney Charles F. Harrison went around and talked to the liquor-crazed man and induced him to submit quietly to arrest.

When the officers entered the Negro's home, they said they found on a table a newspaper with an account and pictures of the savage battle near Gordonsville last Friday, in which two Negroes lost their lives in their burning home after they had killed a sheriff and wounded five men who were sent to arrest them. The discreet handling of the situation by Commonwealth's Attorney Harrison may indeed have prevented the occurrence of a similar tragedy.

The incident serves to raise again the question of the part sensational publicity plays in fostering crime in this country. Regardless of the impression a writer may seek to leave, weak minds and minds inflamed by alcohol are more than apt to view as heroic the daring exploits of criminals who wage even a losing battle against the forces of law.

This newspaper believes a sound public policy would be served by the press if it refrained from "playing up" crime news to the nauseous extent it now does. There is a vast difference between covering the news in such a manner as to give all the essential facts about crime and a policy of magnifying lurid and often ghastly details out of all due proportion to their importance.

Many newspapers unquestionably would willingly and even gladly adopt such a policy toward crime news if they could do so without seriously endangering their chances of survival in a field in which competition is necessarily strong. The press as a whole, or a considerable portion of it, might adopt such a policy with reasonable assurance. Publishing a true version of the news is one thing and catering to a morbid public taste is another.

Anderson, S. C., Record
May 18, 1936

"PERSONS UNKNOWN."

Georgia has started off the year with a couple of lynchings which occurred within a brief space of time. In both cases the negroes were victims who were charged with serious crimes. In both cases the negroes were taken from the custody of officers.

In one instance a negro was lynched by a group of mobsters atn Danielsville, Ga., while he was awaiting an orderly trial in the criminal courts of that state. The mob was frustrated on one occasion immediately after the arrest of the negro, and the latter was whisked away for safe keeping. But on the eve of his trial, the mob broke into a little jail at Royston, got their victim and hanged him.

The other case occurred in the southern part of the state. Circumstances were quite similar. The negro was taken from the custody of authorities and his body was riddled with bullets.

And there was another striking similarity in the two cases. Verdicts of coroner's juries returned after the lynchings were to the effect that the victims came to their deaths at the hands of "persons unknown."

How familiar are those words after a lynching occurs. It seems unusual that authorities from whom prisoners are taken and then strung up to a tree should never be able to recognize any of the mobsters who take the law into their own hands and resort to violence, rather than letting the law take its course in the usual way. It happens in South Carolina, as well as in Georgia, and it occurs in North Carolina, Alabama and wherever else a lynching might occur.

It seems strange that we never have convictions of mobsters who hang their victims to trees and riddle their bodies with bullets. Nor shall we ever have convictions as long as juries return verdicts that the crime was committed by the hands of "persons unknown."

Law Vs. Lynch

In Florida a Polk County jury found five former Tampa policemen guilty of kidnaping and flogging three labor leaders last November, a case made famous for its brutality and the death of one of the victims. Post

In Louisiana a Federal Court jury fined a sheriff $2500 for negligence in failing to prevent the lynching of Fred Moore, a Negro boy, in 1933. Because the case was brought by the dead boy's parents in Arkansas the trial fell under Federal jurisdiction. 5-23-36

But these triumphs of law, encouraging as they are, do not cancel out the other side of the picture. Birmingham, Ala.

Lawlessness, masquerading as super-patriotism, is brought to light in Michigan. The Black Legion, a terroristic secret society professing allegiance to the Constitution but conducting an undercover campaign of race hatred and religious intolerance, is caught red-handed in the mob murder of a young Works Progress Administration worker. State police investigate tips that this vigilante organization also was responsible for many other "purification" murders which were disguised as suicides.

There is ample justification—yea, necessity—for an expansion of the Federal police power to the end that we may stamp out mob violence just as we have stamped out kidnaping. In the last 54 years, lynch mobs have slain 5000 men and women. Since the Spring of 1935, when a Senate filibuster shelved the Wagner - Costigan anti - lynching law, there have been 25 actual lynchings and 117 attempted lynchings, narrowly averted.

WILMINGTON, N. C.
STAR

MAY 15 1936

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTE

A negro bootblack overturned a crippled white man and called him "poor white trash." In the argument that followed the negro struck the white with a bottle, and it required a riot squad of burly policemen to save him from summary execution at the hands of a quickly gathered mob.

It is fitting, perhaps, that this incident be noted with due care, because geographical reasons effectively stay the usual critical voices from raising a hue and cry over what was potentially a dangerous situation. In Georgia, Florida, Mississippi or other southern states, it would have been a legitimate subject, but this near lynching happened in New York city, home of those most prone to contend that all residents of a lynching area are barbarians or outlaws.

It is not our purpose to defend lynching, regordless of the locality or the color of the victim, but there is a phase of the New York disturbance that calls to mind a vital factor in such matters. There is a difference in the methods of north and south, even when it is a case of white man against negro. The southern mob stops at killing the offender or suspected offender, but his northern contemporary quite frequently goes on to kill or attempt to kill every person of the same race as his victim who crosses his path. Some of the bloodiest, indeed the bloodiest racial disturbances in American history have taken place far beyond the limits of the south.

Fortunately, the New York police, used to dealing with riots of all kind, and in saving every manner of man from the wrath of his fellows, were not overly burdened in quelling this disturbance.

But let it be marked that the latest display of the mob spirit on a racial basis was not in the south.

MITCHEL, S. D.
REPUBLIC

MAY 26 1936

ONE WAY TO STOP LYNCHINGS

The South, where Negroes who commit crimes are frequently lynched, has been considered somewhat barbaric as a consequence. The lynching mania in the South has constituted a disgrace which can't seem to be wiped out.

But in Assumption Parish there was a lynching which probably won't be repeated soon. A mob took a Negro from the county jail and hanged him.

The family of the Negro sued the sheriff on the grounds that he was derelict in his duty in allowing the mob to take the Negro. The court held with the plaintiff. So the sheriff had to pay $2,500 damages.

Isn't it a fair prophecy that the next mob which tries to get a Negro away from that sheriff will have a fight on its hands? A Southern sheriff might willingly enough turn over a Negro to a mob if he thought the Negro was worthless. But if it is going to be worth $2,500 to him to keep his Negro prisoners alive, he'll put up a fight that no lynching mob will care to stomach.

If more lynch victims' families sue the sheriffs who allow them to be lynched, the South may find that its age-old lynching problem has suddenly been solved.

WILMINGTON, N. C
STAR NEWS

MAY 24 1936

THE LYNCHING BILL

The slated democratic caucus Friday for consideration of the anti-lynching bill, was postponed because no quorum was present. Southern congressmen declined as a whole to attend, and of the North Carolina delegation, only MR. UMSTEAD was present.

This is a bill that is destined never to be considered on its merits and for several reasons. For one the prejudicial issues involved would prevent that, and second the entire proposal is conceived in misunderstanding. Finally, it is a loosely constructed bit of lawmaking that would be clumsily enforced at best, if it eventually became a law.

Under the terms of this bill, a lynching would send G-men on the trial of the mob. There is no more logical objection to that than the spectacle of the G-man chasing a gangster or running to earth a kidnaper.

Unfortunately, however, lynching under this law would be those occasions of mob violence usually confined to the south and involving racial differences.

It might conceivably overlook the fact that what may pass in other sections as a riot, is to all intents a lynching.

Regardless of this, however, there is one thing that is suggested by the pending legislation. That is that the south for its part must clear its skirts. It can be done. It is not reasonable to expect that time is yet here when the average southern mob can be tracked to its lair after a lynching has been committed, but it has been proved time and again that lynchings can be prevented in southern states as well as in others.

The alert sheriff or police chief, who takes the trouble to analyze any situation, and who knows his people as every law-enforcement officer should know them, can act in time to protect the life of any prisoner.

There are times, however, when it cannot be done by leaving the major elements entirely to chance. That is the trouble in the south.

Lynchings-1936
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

5303

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
May 6, 1936

"ALABAMA STANDS FIRM"

The Baltimore Evening Sun takes occasion now and then to print a gracious word of editorial comment about Alabama. The Evening Sun is a great and influential newspaper and its fairness in discussing matters affecting the reputation of this State is to be appreciated.

In a recent editorial under the caption, "Alabama Stands Firm", The Evening Sun says:

> Three more lynchings have occurred in the South within a week, but none was staged in Alabama.
>
> This is noteworthy, because Alabama has suffered more for preventing a lynching than any other State. Nevertheless, she keeps right on stopping them. In spite of Scottsboro, Alabama remains definitely opposed to mob murder as a means of settling her difficulties.
>
> Unfortunately, this spirit doesn't seem to be contagious. Two of last week's festive butcheries took place in Georgia, separated from Alabama only by an imaginary line, but evidently separated from her by a vast intellectual gulf.

Let us hope that Alabama will continue to stop lynchings.

Anniston, Ala. Star
May 7, 1936

Praise For Alabama

The fact that Alabama continues to keep her record clear in regard to lynchings is the object of commendation by The Baltimore Evening Sun. The words of praise were inspired by reports of three recent lynchings.

Noting that none of the three mob killings was in Alabama, The Evening Sun says:

"This is noteworthy, because Alabama has suffered more for preventing a lynching than any other state. Nevertheless, she keeps right on stopping them. In spite of Scottsboro, Alabama remains definitely opposed to mob murder as a means of settling her difficulties.

But unfortunately, The Baltimore editor declares, "this spirit does not seem to be contagious. Two of last week's festive butcheries took place in Georgia, separated from Alabama only by an imaginary line, but evidently separated from her by a vast intellectual gulf."

Officers in Alabama have proved on recent occasions that mob violence can be prevented by quick and courageous action and good citizens all over the state will join in the hope that our reputation in this respect will be maintained.

Forsyth, Ga., Advertiser
May 7, 1936

CRUCIFYING GEORGIA

The lynching of a Negro at Royston on the day before he was to be put on trial, and with his conviction assured, was a mockery of law and order, that crucifies the state in the eyes of the whole country.

When this Negro was arrested some weeks ago, charged with attempted assault, he was rescued from the hands of a mob by the courageous action of an aged judge, who arose from a sick bed to successfully plead with the mob that the law be permitted to take its course and the state be saved from a blotch on its good name.

The mob dispersed and later a detail of the state militia brought the Negro to Atlanta for safekeeping. Then the law proceeded to move swiftly and surely, the date for the Negro's trial being set for less than a month after the commission of the offense with which he was charged, and in view of his positive identification by the victims of his attempted attack there was no doubt of his conviction and legal execution.

The barbarous manner in which the mob took matters in its own hands has the effect of crucifying Georgia. Flouting the efforts of a brave judge who had taken his life in his own hands to save the Negro from the earlier lynching, and had kept his promise for an early and speedy trial, the mob went about its gruesome business, with apparently no opposition from either local or state officers of the law.

Where the blame lies The Constitution does not know, but it seems strange that this culprit should have been returned for trial unprotected when his safety required the presence of national guardsmen only a few weeks earlier.

It is a sad commentary when a prisoner on the eve of his trial, and with the law moving swiftly and surely, is forcibly taken from jail and brutally and barbarously murdered.—Atlanta Constitution.

Charlotte, N. C., News
April 30, 1936

The Mob Marches On.

Law enforcement in the South is afflicted with a malady which but seldom attacks and is never prevalent in other sections of the United States — lynching. Yesterday, in a place called Lepanto in Arkansas, the police captured a young Negro suspected of raping a white woman. A mob snatched him from legal custody and shot him. Yesterday in Huntsville, Ala., a mob, after having been beaten back weeks ago, formed again and attempted to seize a Negro alleged rapist. It had to be dispersed with tear gas. Two days ago in Royston, Ga., lynchers battered in the jail and took a Negro to the woods and shot him — this after once before having been defied and scattered by the courageous action of a 74-year-old judge. And in order to avoid a holier-than-thou attitude, we still point to North Carolina's Franklin county lynching last year, the investigation of which is exactly where it was the day after.

All of which brings on the thought that while this form of wild lawlessness is being curbed to some extent, it is still prevalent enough to cause deep concern to the South. The fact that it can be restrained at all adds encouragement to those who would stamp it out entirely. And such an effort will be made, if not by us, for us. Already the Congressional demand for federal intervention in the Southern lynching situation is strongly supported. If the South does not take definite steps to end mob action, the rest of the country will.

Wherefore, why should not the Southern States, both to cure their own distemper and to avoid the humiliation of federal intervention, take concerted action, create a police agency to ferret out the identity of mob members and bring them to trial? Maybe juries still wouldn't convict them, but even to get them before a jury would be something.

Charlotte, N. C., News
May 3, 1936

A Third Way.

The lynching of two Negroes in as many days in the South, one in Arkansas and another in Georgia, taken together with an attempted lynching in Alabama, threw the anti-lynching forces of Dixie into high gear. They began, with a will, to issue statements. Two approaches to the problem were suggested yesterday. One was by R. B. Eleazer, of Atlanta, educational director of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation. He advocated state statutes which would make mandatory the trial of mobsters in counties far distant from the scene of the crime, thus removing the handicap of local sentiment. Another, put forward by Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, president of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, demanded educational activity which would have the purpose of eventually stamping out lynching by an ingrained public opposition.

Both suggestions are, of course, very good indeed. The removal of cases to far counties would increase the chances of fair trials and, therefore, convictions of mob members. Educational emphasis, if properly directed, would surely do wonders in the course of years. Supplementing both, we reiterate a previous suggestion that if the Southern States would cooperate in the support of an official "department of justice" to ferret out and present evidence against lynchers, the trick would be done almost at once. Lynching is a product of emotion, and must be fought by creating a counter emotion — fear. No mobs will form when citizens know there will be consequences.

Birmingham, Ala. News
May 9, 1936

Boosting The Lynch Record

For a number of years Georgia's lynching record was, happily, on the steady decline, and we were beginning to build up a decent reputation in the eyes of other sections. Tourists and others were thinking better of the state, and the newspapers of other areas had less occasion or opportunity to put the name of Georgia in glaring headlines and hurtful articles.

But the pendulum seems now to be swinging the other way. The state has just had its secing lynching and the South its third within the space of a week.

The brutal mob murder of a Negro at Pavo, in South Georgia, Sunday afternoon for killing a white man followed a similar lynching in North Georgia.

For some years a lawyer of some ability, but who was an inmate at the State Sanitarium for the Insane at Milledgeville, walked up and down the grounds of that institution muttering these words: "It's mob law, and there's no law for it."

Even an insane man knows there's no law for mob violence, that it does not fit into civilized ethics and safe standards of government.

The Pavo crowd that so grossly violated a Sunday afternoon by taking the law into their own hands placed another black-and-red dab of paint on the fair name of Georgia. Furthermore, they held up one group of the white race in the South and Georgia as being brutal and vicious. They set a murderous example for other races. They placed undue emphasis upon killing and ascribed to it a virtue by practicing it themselves. They became far worse than the victim they shot down.

It was a cowardly act—certainly, nothing of which to be proud. It hurts the name of Pavo in its own state; and that's too nice a little city to be besmirched. It is located in a splendid farming country of rich soil; a beneficent Divine Providence has well blessed her people—but we don't imagine that Divine Providence had much to do with the mob violence act put on by the "some 200 people" who took the lynch victim away from the deputy sheriff of Thomas County.

When are some of our people going to grow up? When are they going to put away puerile and disgraceful things? When will they quit acting like worse than imbeciles and give due recognition and respect to the machinery of the law, which stands for civilization and against the return of the Dark Ages? — Columbus Ledger.

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
May 6, 1936

The Cause Behind the South's Mobs

IN one week there have been three lynchings in the South, two of them in Georgia. On April 11, Judge Berry T. Moseley, a man of 74, got out of a sick bed and cowed, by force of his personality, a mob bent on lynching a Negro at Danielsville, Ga.

On April 28, Judge Mosely was missing, and the mob snatched the Negro from the Law, and left his body riddled with bullets.

Southern patrioteers often point to the fact that these are lynchings in the North; that the Negro is mistreated in Harlem, his heaven. The fact remains that the South is the home of lynching, that annually we witness savagery which would put to blush the natives of the Congo.

We have tried to cure lynching by preaching. Until we remove the background on which lynchings breed, however, we may never solve the problem.

We must learn that cornpone and sorghum, as a diet, do not nurture aesthetic souls. Hookworm and malaria do not produce culture. Share-cropping and tenant farming—the form of slavery which we exchanged for chattel slavery, does not make sensitive, cultured citizens of its victims.

Sherwood Eddy, reformer who admittedly may lean somewhat on the super-sensitive side, has recently investigated share-crapping in the heart of the Cotton South. There we find the basic cause for the frame of mind which gives rise to lynchings. It is but natural that people mistreated by their masters may let their pent up hatreds turn loose on the nearest defenseless objects at hand—and a mob of hundreds safely strings up a black.

Mr. Eddy found that the ordinary share-cropper in Arkansas gets a yearly average of $212 a family, apart from rent. But this figure includes an advance for "furnishing", for cornmeal, flour, lard, and, for part of the year, a little pork, charged at the highest prices and at a high rate of interest. The share-croppers say that the landlord keeps the books, and renders the accounts, "often with a crooked pencil." A man named Will Bright, whose account is in Mr. Eddy's hands, was paid only $4.61 in cash for his entire family after a year's work. Since money is the American God, we can see how oppressed an entire family would be with only $4.61 to spend in an entire year.

Actually, Mr. Eddy finds, the average share-cropper gets at the end of the year after the crop, an average of $50 in cash. He met only one man who received more than that sum this year.

One of the share-croppers declared, "I raised fourteen bales of cotton for him this year and got nothing for it—only an advance of $125 for five months. I got only $68 last year for my family of eight, but not a cent of cash this year though the settlement is long overdue. I am robbed and get almost nothing. We have no doctor and have seen no meat since I can remember. I don't go to church lookin' like a dog with my half-naked women folk barefoot. Here is my 'yellow dog' contract under which I am cheated, where I have to appoint this man to sign any and all government papers for me."

Mr. Eddy commented on the fact that it is sickening to drive through the richest soil in America and to see the poorest human beings living in tumbledown shanties, rewarded for their toil by poverty, pellagra, hookworm, malaria, illiteracy.

These are the people who form the bulk of the mobs—whether among the tenant-farmers of the Georgia poor lands, or the cotton plantations of Mississipi or among the share-croppers of Arkansas.

We may lower the number of lynchings from year to year. But until we raise these unfortunates from their slavery, we will not eradicate the evil which is so dark a blot on the South.

Bradenton, Fla., Herald
May 13, 1936

The Lynching Problem

The Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser's acceptance of the Baltimore Evening Sun's kind words concerning lynchings in Alabama was eager enough to appear to be wanted. This suggests that Alabama herself may be a little dubious of that record. Children needing punishment, and knowing this, can be very obedient, extremely appreciative of a kind word. Alabama seems to be in that position in this matter. We have this from the Sun as a quotation in the Advertiser:

"Three more lynchings have occurred in the south within a week, but none was staged in Alabama.

"This is noteworthy, because Alabama has suffered more for preventing a lynching than any other state. Nevertheless, she keeps right on stopping them. In spite of Scottsboro, Alabama remains definitely opposed to mob murder as a means of settling her difficulties.

"Unfortunately, this spirit doesn't seem to be contagious. Two of last week's festive butcheries took place in Georgia, separated from Alabama only by an imaginary line, but evidently separated from her by a vast intellectual gulf."

The Dothan Eagle, less enthusiastic, wonders why lynchings have increased in number in recent months, and then blames Scottsboro for having snapped the patience of people everywhere. It is very critical of the delay practiced in that famous case.

Viewed with deliberation this line from the Sun's comment certainly doesn't suggest any knowledge of the deep south or any other section, for that matter: "In spite of Scottsboro, Alabama remains definitely opposed to mob murder as a means of settling her difficulties."

The inference is that Alabama is alone in this attitude which isn't true. No state, north or south, east or west, approves mob rule. Not even Maryland, home of the erudite Evening Sun.

Lynchings are the result of particularly brutal crimes that inflame minds. People see "red" momentarily. During that period they are liable to do anything. But surely that doesn't imply that the state of which they are an almost infinitesimal part approves. The Sun knows that it doesn't. Florida or Maryland might have a dozen lynchings monthly. But they wouldn't have the approval of the law abiding people of those states. And we are old fashioned enough to believe the reasonable law abiding are still in the majority.

PADUCAH, KY.
SUN-DEMOCRAT

MAY 22 1936

Hope is seen for the cause of those who regard mob rule and lynch law as savagery, having no place in a supposedly civilized community. A Louisiana jury of white men Thursday awarded a stiff judgment against a parish sheriff to the parents of a Negro boy who was slain by a mob in 1933. The grounds for the judgment is negligence. If such a policy can be maintained, it seems a sure solution to a problem which has been the disgrace of America since the Civil War. Direct levies against officers who are lax in protecting prisoners will certainly be more effective as a preventive of lynching, than the provisions of the recently-scuttled Anti-Lynch bill providing fines for counties in which such crimes are committed.

Lynchings – 1936 & Discussions.

White Press, southern

5304

Anniston. Ala. S
July 19, 193

Respect For Law

Looking back over a week of turbulence and of emotional strain, the people of this county have reason to be proud of the fact that the majesty of the law has triumphed over mob rule and that we thus have made one more forward stride in the path of civilization. Newspapers throughout the country are commending the state, county and city authorities for their achievements here and the views thus expressed unquestionably echo the sentiments of the thoughtful readers of these periodicals.

And yet, lest we become too complacent in the consideration of our victory over organized lawlessness, it is well to take into account the temper of some of the communications that have been addressed to this paper during the last few days, letters that seem to convey the impression that there is a considerable segment of our population that apparently regrets that lynch law and the mob spirit were not allowed to prevail over the constituted authorities.

The persons who wrote these letters and those who share their views very likely are ruled more by emotion and racial prejudice than by reason. They do not stop to think of the fact that it is by reason of law, the fundamental law of the land as expressed in the constitutions of Alabama and of the United States, that they are allowed the privilege publicly to express their opinions. For men down through the centuries have suffered and died in order that freedom of speech might be made secure under the law. On the other hand if the mob were allowed to prevail, this law and all law would be set aside. Liberty, personal and property security and all other rights that are guaranteed an American citizen would be ground under foot.

It is natural that persons who are ruled by their emotions and prejudices should think in terms of the concrete as opposed to the abstract. They see a Negro who has committed a heinous crime and their immediate reaction is to resort to the law of the jungle, not realizing that the consequence of their desire, if allowed to become effective, would lead inevitably to their own undoing in the years to come by another mob that would take vengeance on them for some real or imagined infraction of the law or of social conduct.

We saw the effect of men trying to set themselves up as superior to the law during the days of the Ku Klux Klan here in Alabama. We observe similar illustrations today in North Carolina and in Pennsylvania, where the mob spirit has broken out anew and where government by civilized human beings is being put to the test once more. And it will be ever thus until all sorts and conditions of men are educated to a point where they will act rationally and not merely emotionally.

"Everybody is queer except thou and me—and sometimes I think thou art," is an old Quaker saying. Many of us are prone to think that we embody in ourselves individually all of the virtues and that God Almighty is on our side when we seek to vent our spleen on one of our fellow human beings. But the law is the expression of the best collective thought of men down through the ages and when we act under the law we act not as individuals but in a light of society as a whole, realizing that the weakest of us has the same rights under the law as has the strongest and that if collective might were allowed to prevail over collective right, then all law would have to be abandoned and the jungle rule of the beast substituted therefor.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
May 24, 1936

CRUMBLING STATE'S RIGHTS

THE weakened condition of the structure of state's rights is again reflected in the renewed movement to bring about the passage of the so-called "anti-lynch bill" by the Congress.

This bill would take the prosecution of lynchers out of the hands of county and state authorities and turn the whole matter over to the federal authorities. It also would bestow autocratic authority in the general government to proceed against local officials who might be suspected or accused of neglect of duty. In brief, it would be a long step toward restoring some of the autocratic and oppressive features which made the reconstruction period a stench in the nostrils of Southern citizens.

It might also easily become a stepping stone to the taking over of other precautions with the result that the general government in the end might be even handling traffic cases.

Oddly enough, many persons who would bitterly resent invasions of state rights along these lines are perfectly willing for state rights to be invaded upon other lines though all such invasions weaken the general structure.

Fortunately the Supreme Court is standing squarely by the Constitution and so long as this condition exists such outrageous invasions of state's rights as are proposed under the misnamed anti-lynch bill will not be possible. The pending act is unconstitutional and would be so declared, but the intent to perpetrate such a provision is graphic in its relation to the existing tendency to break down wise and even necessary rights that exist within the states.

Fayetteville, N. C., Observer
May 25, 1936

ON REDUCING LYNCHING.

Editorial attitude of the newspapers of the South toward lynchings was made the subject of much comment and some criticism at the recent meeting of the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association at Asheville.

Such criticism is most unjust.

Nowhere has the lynch law found as bitter enemies as the newspapers in the communities where lynching flourishes.

These newspapers, however, are pilloried because they consistently oppose a Federal anti-lynching law.

Choice of the newspapers in this matter is a choice between spoiled fish.

Conceding that Federal legislation might discourage lynching it remains true that it would divest the States of one of the last rights that remains to them, the right to local police authority.

And there is even the danger that a Federal anti-lynching law would cause local authorities to relax such vigilance against lynching as they now maintain just as in some States the Federal prohibition enforcement program caused States to give over their own [redacted]

Fayetteville, N. C., Observer
May 27, 1936

MICHIGAN LYNCHERS.

Newspapers have been making a penny horror over revelations of the activity in Michigan of a "Black Legion" alleged to have perpetrated a number of murders and believed to be a residue of the late lamented second edition of the Ku Klux Klan.

Pictures of the alleged members of the Black Legion who are in the toils of the law do not recommend those members as proper custodians of a "higher justice."

They look very much like the members of the average Southern lynching mob must look.

And what is Michigan's Black Legion but an organized, systematic band of lynchers for a lynching is nothing more than the imposition of what a band of private individuals feels is justice as opposed to what organized courts consider justice.

Yet the people of Michigan and other Northern States, which harbor organized bands of lynchers, look down their lily white noses at the Southern States, where lynchings although unfortunately numerous, have yet to be organized on a systematic scale.

Columbia. S. C. State
May 23, 1936

The Most Horrible Feature of Mob Murder.

Lynching is horrible enough when the mob, overriding the law of constituted government, executes a criminal who would be executed by the sheriff, according to law, had the accused been brought to trial.

But the mob does not try cases. It is brutal, savage. And when the mob rules there is no assurance that the person murdered by the mob is not innocent of the crime alleged. And that was the case where a Louisiana mob took from the jail a 16-year-old Negro boy, accused of murdering a white girl, and hanged him.

At the suit for damages against the sheriff by the parents of the boy, it developed that deputy sheriffs aided the lynchers; one of them participating in the savage beating and killing of the unfortunate youth.

"Later the girl's step-father was said to have confessed to the murder." Thirty years ago The State declared, in reference to the lynching of an innocent Negro youth in South Carolina, that when an innocent person was lynched for a crime, that very act of the mob gave security to the guilty; that the persons in the community involved in the lynching did not wish revealed the fact that an innocent person had been their victim, and were against further investigation. It was so in this Louisiana case. The confession of the girl's step-father was common knowledge, but he, it seems, was not brought to the gallows!

Another Negro boy "taken to witness the lynching" was beaten, strung up and almost murdered by the blood-thirsty mob. It was thought he might have known something about the murder of the girl.

The report from New Orleans does not say how this suit happened to get before a jury of white men in "federal court." But the jury awarded the parents $2,500 damages.

We wonder, in view of the evidence, if those deputy sheriffs, sworn to support the law, will be inconvenienced by a trial? They are criminals. It is these mobs, aided by such creatures as those deputy sheriffs, that inspire national legislation to give federal courts jurisdiction over lynching cases.

It is, under the constitution, the right of the states, to deal with such cases. But when the states fail to perform their part, for law and humanity, they disgrace themselves and the constitution.

Charlotte, N. C., News
May 12, 1936

How Alabama Does It.

Alabama's 1935 record of preventing lynchings was one of the most creditable in the South, which is to say the whole nation. Six Negroes, two of them suspected murderers and four rapists, were saved from threatening mobs. And yesterday at Huntsville, the mob formed again, but without effect. There were four companies of militia on hand, and not only did they protect their prisoner, they arrested two white men of a crowd that was attempting to drive Negroes from the town's business district.

That is how Alabama does it. Evidently the State has made up its mind to be its own judge and executioner, a determination which becomes all the more remarkable in view of the fact that in preventing the lynching years ago of the seven Scottsboro Negroes, Alabama let itself in for a perennial and apparently perpetual *cause celebre.*

Fayetteville, N. C., Observer
July 20, 1936

LYNCHING INDICTED.

The musician being held by Asheville authorities in the mysterious death of Miss Clevenger may or not be guilty, but the investigation of her death has indicated positively that the negro bell-hop, who was the first person to be arrested, is innocent and he has been released from custody.

This fact is in itself a damning indictment of the lynching racket.

In more rural communities with less secure jails an innocent man might have been taken away from the sheriff and strung to the nearest tree—merely because he was under suspicion of a serious crime.

Undoubtedly many such miscarriages of justice have resulted from mob action.

Slowness of courts discourages justice, but the remedy is the reform of the courts and not the employment of lynching.

COLUMBUS, GA.
LEDGER

JUL 21 1936

Should Take Stock

The northern press has been anything but kind to the south in handling items of mob violence cases.

Some of the more sensational newspapers, whose editors dip their pens in venom as they write paint sordid pictures of conditions in the south declare the south is unsafe; that there is no respect for law and order, and attempt to stir racial hatreds.

All of these stories are erroneous and come no where near painting the true conditions. Of course the south has had its lynchings, and we are not one of those who condone mob violence, yet we do feel that when these cases occur and when comparisons are made, the true picture should be unfolded.

There are no racial hatreds in the south. The south is not lawless and its people do not attempt to infringe upon the rights and liberties of others, as some would have you believe.

And when comparisons are made, these sensational editors, eager to get the "truth" across, forget to mention the gangsters of the west, the north and the east, who feed on innocent and unsuspecting persons; they neglect to mention the numbers who have been taken for one-way "rides", kidnapers who gnaw at the very vitals of the citizenship; those who are herded against walls and shot, and lynchings.

Yet, they tell you the south is over-ridden with mob violence and there is very little respect for th rights and liberties of the people.

They know not whereof they speak or they are closing their eyes and painting a picture which should put them to shame.

The south has its problems, but we dare say they even approach conditions in other sections where the gangster and hoodlum is allowed to run at large, under the very noses of these long-range, crusading editors, some of whom have not ventured far from their own citadels.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

COMMENDATION FOR ALABAMA

As readers of The Advertiser know The Baltimore Evening Sun keeps a weather eye upon this State and seems glad to single it out for commendation whenever the forces of the law in this State triumph over mobs and avert lynchings and other excesses.

The Evening Sun has commended Alabama many times in the last two years. Recently it repeated, saying:

"Racial conflict threatened in Anniston, Ala., yesterday. Following a clash in a nearby community in which three white men were wounded at a Negro's house, heavily armed white men from the rural sections, it is reported, congregated in Anniston and serious disorder threatened until State highway patrolmen arrived and dispersed the mob. They left, it is said, shouting that they would come back.

"Such has been the determination of Alabama, lately, to put down mobs that we are strong to believe that the threats of the rabble 'to come back' were merely the empty mutterings of frustration. It has been demonstrated in Alabama and many other places that mobs of lynchers can be cowed by a few men of courage and determination. That happened yesterday at Anniston. The disturbers are not likely to overcome their cowardice over night."

Georgia Women Rap Mob Slaying Of Negro

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.
9/12/36.

ATLANTA, Sept. 11.—(AP)—The executive committee of the Woman's Missionary Society of the North Georgia Methodist Conference condemned today the lynching of A. L. McCamy, a negro, near Dalton last Sunday.

"The lynching can not pass unnoticed and uncondemned," said a statement adopted unanimously at a meeting of the committee here. "For the fourth time in 10 months we are forced by the acts of Georgia citizens to condemn a specific crime of mob murder.

"We, the executive committee of the Woman's Missionary Society of the North Georgia Conference, hold that this condemnation arises in part from the realization that these violations of the constitution and of the courts will inevitably lead to the destruction of our Christian civilization

"Therefore, in a spirit of renewed courage we shall continue our fight against mob violence in every form and for any reason."

The lynched negro was accused of an attempted attack on a white woman.

Lynchings-1936
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

5305

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
May 3, 1936

N. C. Justice Dept. Urged.

4-28

A DEMAND THAT the "State as a whole establish x x x a comprehensive, vigorous Department of Justice around which x x x shall revolve our entire legal procedure," was expressed in a resolution offered by Dr. N. C. Newbold, retiring president, and adopted by the North Carolina Conference for Social Service at the closing session of its annual meeting in Durham Tuesday.

The resolution demanded creation of a State Department of Justice as one measure in solution of the problem of increasing crime, which has been tremendous during the last two decades, it was declared.

The conference also condemned lynchings, proposed more humane care of delinquent negroes, called for more adequate schools, urged active State support of the Federal social security program, and suggested the establishment of a State-wide recreational organization.

Dr. Howard W. Odum, head of the Sociology department of the University, but at present on leave, was elected president to succeed Dr. Newbold.

Attorney General Cummings, in an address Monday night, expressed the belief that the Federal government in the future must place an increasing emphasis upon crime prevention.

Addressing the Conference for Social Service, on progress toward a modern administration of criminal justice, the Attorney General declared that in crime prevention is a great field which many people, either because of inadequate information or lack of imagination, are reluctant to enter.

"In this area," he said, "as in the matter of detection and apprehension, as well as of punishment and rehabilitation, the Federal government owes a duty of leadership."

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
May 6, 1936

A Southern Record

The three lynchings in the South last week—a record, according to an official of the Southern Interracial Commission—all came after the men subsequently lynched had been arrested and were in the hands of the law. One had been in prison several weeks and would have gone on trial eight hours after he was murdered.

Yet in one instance the mob broke into a jail to reach its victim. In another, the mob seized a man in the custody of a marshal. In the third, the mob snatched a prisoner from a deputy sheriff. In each instance, experience indicates, the man would have been tried in 30 or at most 60 days, and if found guilty would have been sentenced promptly, and and if ordered to be executed would have paid the penalty in a few weeks. Every mob-murderer, once his passion had spent itself, would admit as much. For whatever is to be said about the law's delays in other respects, the law acts quickly enough when the issue is a Negro accused of an offense against a white man or woman and when the scene is such Southern communities as Pavo, Ga., Royston, Ga., and Lepanto, Ark.

From these lynchings another conclusion is to be drawn. One of the seizures was in daylight, with no serious effort at concealment. Another was by men who had drawn burlap bags over their heads. Two of the seizures were at night. But each time at least one officer was present and saw, touched or talked with members of the mob. The probability is strong that these officers know some of the men they faced and could swear to their identity on a witness stand.

But the probability is also strong that these officers will do nothing of the kind. When an officer surrenders his prisoner to a mob, he is generally cowardly or stupid or in connivance with the mob or indifferent to his oath of office. Lawlessness is to be expected. But when lawlessness finds the representatives of the law on its side, or at least not intelligently and courageously combating it, then the problem is intensified many times. That is why such impetus has been given to the demand that lynching be made a Federal offense. So long as local sentiment is unwilling to wait on a trial and local officers are unable or unwilling to protect their prisoners, the demand for Federal protection is certain to increase.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
May 2, 1936

It Didn't Take

Just a fortnight ago it appeared that Alabama's determination to scotch lynchings had caught on in the neighboring state of Georgia.

A mob stormed the jail at Danielson, Ga., attempting to batter a hole in the brick building and drag away a Negro named Lint Shaw, who was being held for pursuing two white girls. While the mobsters were hammering away, 74-year-old Judge Berry T. Moseley left a sick bed to come to the jail to try to prevent a lynching. His action was soon supported by the arrival of national guardsmen, who put the mob to rout.

This prompt action of the authorities seemed to indicate that the Alabama spirit was catching. Today, however, comes news from Georgia indicating that it didn't take. Lint Shaw last night was hauled out of jail, strung up to a tree and riddled with bullets.

Obviously, Georgians—or, at least, some of them—can't be persuaded, by example, to give up their barbaric pastimes.—Baltimore Evening Sun.

ATLANTA, GA.
CONSTITUTION

MAY 10 1936

GEORGIA WOMEN PROTEST

Discussing the recent lynchings in Georgia, a group of 150 Christian women gathered last week in a Decatur church, expressed approval of The Constitution's condemnation of these outrages against law and order and went on record as realizing that "we cannot be very far along toward a Christian America with three lynchings in Georgia this year."

In notifying The Constitution of the attitude of this group of Georgia women, Mrs. B. Frank Pim, the secretary of the meeting, writes:

Editor Constitution: One hundred and fifty Christian women gathered this week at the First Methodist church, Decatur, Ga., in a school of missions, using the text, "Toward a Christian America," went on record today as wishing to express to you their appreciation and approval of your editorial, "Crucifying Georgia."

We realize, with you, that we cannot be very far along toward a Christian America with three lynchings in Georgia this year.

MRS. B. FRANK PIM,
Secretary.

The attitude of this group of Georgia women reflects the sentiment of the women of Georgia generally. Individually and through various organizations they have never failed to condemn mob violence, despite the fact that the majority of lynchings have followed crimes against their sex.

The three lynchings in Georgia since the first of the year are all the more lamentable in view of the fine record of the state in this respect during recent years.

Before the pressure of wise and conservative public opinion, lynching had been practically eliminated as a blot on the good name of the state, and its sudden recurrence is perhaps largely due to the inflammable and scurrilous literature which was circulated at the recent grass roots convention in Macon and afterwards distributed throughout the state.

This literature, containing photographs and matter furnished by sources out of the state and circulated within the state by anti-Roosevelt leaders, based its sole appeal on race prejudice and passion. It is regretted that the Governor of Georgia apparently lent his approval to such distribution. He certainly did not attempt to stop his cohorts.

Nobody can know to what major extent the racial passions aroused among the ignorant elements of the state's population are responsible for the lynchings that have taken place this year.

It is to the undying credit of the people of Georgia that these vicious efforts to fan race prejudice provoked universal resentment.

In commenting upon the widespread condemnation of nefarious effort to achieve political ends at the cost of the peace and welfare of the state, the Brunswick News cites the attitude of the people of Pierce county, one of the leading agricultural counties of the state, as reflecting "what Georgians think." The News reports that—

Henchmen of "Gene," invading the county prior to a proposed presidential preference primary with hundreds of copies of the Woman's World, a few of which were distributed, but the majority forming fuel for a bonfire after they were seized from the automobile of the Talmadge representatives. And those who did the burning weren't city folk, either, but former supporters of Eugene Talmadge!

No wonder this phase of the campaign against Roosevelt was soon brought to an end.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
May 15, 1936

3 GEORGIA LYNCHINGS ASSAILED BY WOMEN

Decatur-Oxford W. M. S. Passes Resolutions Condemning Mob Violence.

Resolutions condemning "unreservedly the three lynchings which have been committee in Georgia this year," were passed by members of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Decatur-Oxford district, Methodist Episcopal church, South, at the annual district conference held in Decatur Wednesday, it was announced yesterday.

Pledging itself to "stand foursquare against mob violence for any cause," the society went on record as opposing "all emotional upheavals based on racial prejudice in our state, in our country and in our church." Mrs. E. C. McDowell, of Social Circle, district secretary, presided.

The resolution follows:

"Without offering any excuse for the people of our state, we, members of the Methodist Missionary Society, working toward a Christian America, condemn unreservedly the three lynchings which have been committed in Georgia this year. We recognize that such violations of all the principles for which we stand as Christians and Americans will not cease, but will continue to grow as long as hatred, fear weapons in political campaigns.

and racial prejudice are used as

"Resolutions against lynchings are ineffective unless we make our resolutions a passionate conviction which will not let us hold our peace as long as lynchings are committed.

"We pledge ourselves to stand four-square against mob violence for any cause. We shall oppose all emotional upheavals based on racial prejudice in our state, in our country and in our church."

MIAMI, FLA.
HERALD

MAY 16 1936

Lynching—Another question thrust into congressional Washington. Democratic caucus forced to consider attitude on an antilynching measure at this session. Various bills pending. Politics involved. North and South. States' rights. In which the main matter may be lost. Lynching is now a crime, forbidden. It is just a case of enforcing the law. New statutes won't change that fact.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
May 10, 1936

GEORGIA WOMEN PROTEST

Discussing the recent lynchings in Georgia, a group of 150 Christian women gathered last week in a Decatur church, expressed approval of The Constitution's condemnation of these outrages against law and order and went on record as realizing that "we cannot be very far along toward a Christian America with three lynchings in Georgia this year."

In notifying The Constitution of the attitude of this group of Georgia women, Mrs. B. Frank Pim, the secretary of the meeting, writes:

> Editor Constitution: One hundred and fifty Christian women gathered this week at the First Methodist church, Decatur, Ga., in a school of missions, using the text, "Toward a Christian America," went on record today as wishing to express to you their appreciation and approval of your editorial, "Crucifying Georgia."
>
> We realize, with you, that we cannot be very far along toward a Christian America with three lynchings in Georgia this year.
>
> MRS. B. FRANK PIM,
> Secretary.

The attitude of this group of Georgia women reflects the sentiment of the women of Georgia generally. Individually and through various organizations they have never failed to condemn mob violence, despite the fact that the majority of lynchings have followed crimes against their sex.

The three lynchings in Georgia since the first of the year are all the more lamentable in view of the fine record of the state in this respect during recent years.

Before the pressure of wise and conservative public opinion, lynching had been practically eliminated as a blot on the good name of the state, and its sudden recurrence is perhaps largely due to the inflammable and scurrilous literature which was circulated at the recent grass roots convention in Macon and afterwards distributed throughout the state.

This literature, containing photographs and matter furnished by sources out of the state and circulated within the state by anti-Roosevelt leaders, based its sole appeal on race prejudice and passion. It is regretted that the Governor of Georgia apparently lent his approval to such distribution. He certainly did not attempt to stop his cohorts.

Nobody can know to what major extent the racial passions aroused among the ignorant elements of the state's population are responsible for the lynchings that have taken place this year.

It is to the undying credit of the people of Georgia that these vicious efforts to fan race prejudice provoked universal resentment.

In commenting upon the widespread condemnation of nefarious effort to achieve political ends at the cost of the peace and welfare of the state, the Brunswick News cites the attitude of the people of Pierce county, one of the leading agricultural counties of the state, as reflecting "what Georgians think." The News reports that—

> Henchmen of "Gene," invading the county prior to a proposed presidential preference primary with hundreds of copies of the Woman's World, a few of which were distributed, but the majority forming fuel for a bonfire after they were seized from the automobile of the Talmadge representatives. And those who did the burning weren't city folk, either, but former supporters of Eugene Talmadge!

No wonder this phase of the campaign against Roosevelt was soon brought to an end.

BLOWS TO MOB VIOLENCE

Tampa policeman participated in the flogging of some labor organizers and agitators. These men were stripped, flogged and tarred and feathered. One of them died. Now a jury convicts five of these former policemen, and thereby acts to redeem the good name of the State of Florida.

It is bad enough for ordinary citizens to join a mob, either to murder or to flog a hapless human being. It is outrageous, it is intolerable, when sworn officers of the law yield to the same low passion and join a mob which they are morally bound to repress.

Right-thinking citizens the country over will congratulate the Florida jury upon its sense of decency in convicting these former policemen. The jury has made a salutary example of faithless public servants.

Out of Louisiana comes an equally stirring story of justice triumphant and unique. The story is unprecedented. The tale with its moral appears in the following editorial from The Chattanooga Times:

> The action of a Federal jury in New Orleans in holding a Sheriff responsible for the lynching of a Negro boy, and awarding $2,500 damages to the boy's parents will doubtless be accepted as an illustration of one method of solving the problem of mob violence. Students of lynching records in the South cannot recall another instance of law-enforcement officers being held responsible at law for failure to protect Negroes committed to their care. The Louisiana case was unusual in several particulars, an important one being that negligence was clearly proved.
>
> The case originated at Napoleonville, in Assumption Parish, in 1933. A mob took Fred Moore, 18-year-old Negro, out of jail and hanged him. Two other Negroes witnessed the hanging. Both Negroes testified in the trial of a suit against Sheriff Lezin H. Himel that two of the Sheriff's deputies took part in the hanging. Sheriff Himel was apparently not involved directly. The two deputies denied they aided the mob, but one of them testified on cross-examination that he did not communicate with Sheriff Himel, although fifteen or twenty minutes elapsed between the time the mob arrived at the jail and the time the Negro was forcibly removed by the lynchers. In his charge to the jury, Judge Wayne G. Borah asserted the actions of the deputies were binding upon the sheriff.
>
> The verdict of the jury was that Sheriff Himel clearly failed to provide the protection to which the prisoner was entitled. There is reason to believe that a large majority of lynchings occur only because of failure to provide adequate police protection. R. B. Eleazer, chairman of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, asserts that investigation of scores of lynchings reveals that "officers have been shown to be directly responsible either through negligence or actual connivance." And Mr. Eleazer adds: "When such can be proved, the officers involved undoubtedly ought to be made to answer both to the law and the families of the victims."
>
> The part the Louisian case will play in the legal fight against mob violence remains to be seen. Sheriff Himel will appeal from the verdict of the jury. The disposition of the case will be awaited with interest, for there is every reason to believe that if courts were quick to hold police officers responsible for the safety of their prisoners, the number of lynchings would decrease rapidly.
>
> Twelve States, including North and South Carolina, have laws providing for recovery against city or county where death occurs as a result of mob violence. They are utilized chiefly to penalize counties and cities for damage to persons in riots. In the South, damages have been obtained in few instances. To be made effective, such laws must have the support of strong public opinion. The Louisiana case will be significant only if it arouses in the people a desire to combat mob violence by holding rigidly to account police officers who are sworn to uphold the law and who can uphold it when they are determined to do so.

Usually officers of the law are quite a match for mobs. Whenever they prove themselves unequal to the occasion it is usually their fault. Competent, determined officers can nearly always put down a mob.

Baxley Ga Herald
May 21, 1936

Three Georgia Lynchings Are Hit By Women

DECATUR-OXFORD W. M. S. PASSES RESOLUTIONS CONDEMNING MOB VIOLENCE

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Lynchings - 1936
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

5306

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
June 30, 1936

HOW NOW, ALABAMA?

Reference has been made repeatedly in these columns to the remarkable record made by Alabama, specially in the last year, toward the suppression of mob law. All her activities, however, related to mobs bent on lynching Negroes.

In view of today's dispatches from the town of Gadsden it is incumbent upon us now to remark that, in the nostrils of outsiders, a mob that beats labor leaders stinks exactly like a lynching mob, for a man beaten to death is as effectively lynched as one hanged or burned.

Is Alabama about to take the astonishing view that what is plainly a detestable crime when directed against Negroes suspected of criminality themselves may be tolerated when directed against white men not even accused of crime? The history of the next few days in Gadsden will tell.—Baltimore Evening Sun.

DOTHAN, ALA.
EAGLE

JUN 30 1936

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Charlotte, N. C., News
June 16, 1936

For a Southern Department of Justice.

Two items in the day's news bring to the fore again that recurring notion of an All-South G-Man department, to invade any community which had a lynching and clear it up quite like any other crime. The idea, of course, slaps our old Dixie prejudices in the face—but isn't it time?

More and more in the North the revulsion against lynching takes the shape of a pious duty to place in the hands of the federal government the task of investigating Southern mob action and bringing the members to justice. Representative Gavagan of New York has just succeeded in bringing out of committee the enabling anti-lynching bill which had been buried so carefully by the Southerners. Before long the bill will be up for debate. It will be defeated. But sooner or later it may pass.

Down in the Southwest, the local and State police of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and New Mexico are trying cooperation against crime and criminals. They have arranged to act under unified direction when the occasion arises, particularly when fugitives are headed toward the border.

That is mentioned merely to show that states can, if they will cooperate in such enterprises. It gives force to the thought that Southern states should maintain a bureau whereby lynchings could be investigated by outsiders vigorously and impartially. The South quite naturally objects to federal interference in its quaint custom of pitching necktie parties, but unless itself takes steps to stamp out this form of barbarism, the federal government will.

COLUMBIA, S. C.
RECORD

JUL 9 - 1936

"ANY NIGGER."

"Any nigger will do."

A member of a band of Dorchester county white men, seeking a negro for shooting a white man, is quoted as saying that, to Jailer J. F. Wimberly when told the negro they wanted was in another jail.

"Any nigger will do."

The words are susceptible of few interpretations, none of them especially pleasant or creditable. It is to the credit of Dorchester county officers that no "nigger" was there to do—with bullets, torch, or rope—but otherwise there is only discredit.

For provocation, however great, cannot justify lynching.

In Dorchester county, an elderly and beloved white farmer had been struck dead by an automobile driven by a negro who reputedly did not stop.

Less than a week later, another white man was critically shot and blinded by a negro—the negro for whom four or five carloads of white men asked at the jail door.

Feeling of course was intense. Justice should be done to its fullest. But not any nigger will do, nor perhaps, will any negro be done for when the facts come out in court.

But the greatest injustice sought to be done by white men at midnight is not to any individual negro. It is to the whole government and social order of Dorchester county, white and black.

An assertion that "any nigger will do" means that the mob, anxious to instill fear into what it conceives to be "uppity" negroes, seeks a sacrifice. It asks a burnt offering to intimidate other negroes from running over and shooting other white men. It casts aside justice more brazenly even than most would-be lynchers.

It contends, more or less openly, that the situation has reached the point where the law cannot cope with it or protect law-abiding citizens.

The refutation of its claim lies in the fact that no negro was done for, that the law officers of Dorchester county, after quickly arresting the alleged culprits, continued to uphold the law by putting them beyond reach of mob violence.

The demand for "any nigger" to lynch in the absence of the suspect prisoners admits in itself that the law is being carried out—that the fear apparently impelling the quest for a lynching victim has little basis.

It is the perfect demonstration of the inefficiency and the futility of the mob in law enforcement.

The might have been lynchers wanted only any nigger, but they would have had to take all justice with him.

Eufaula, Ala. Tribune
July 17, 1936

CONGRATULATIONS FOR THE GOVERNOR

Once again congratulations are in order for Governor Graves and the national guardsmen for their efficient handling of the recent delicate situation in Anniston. The stage was set for a serious racial clash as white youths set upon negroes with rocks and hundreds of white men crowded the streets leading to the county jail impatient for the apprehension of a negro who had attempted to attack a white woman and who had wounded one of the possemen seeking him as he fled into the swamps. The militia blocked all approaches to the jail and continued to patrol the streets until the announcement that the confessed attacked had been captured and taken to Kilby prison came to quiet the mobs.

The forestalling of mob action with its possible consequences is indeed praiseworthy, for popular respect for law can be maintained only so long as the law acts swiftly, decisively and with justice. Too frequently mob action coupled with race disturbances has resulted in regrettable situations embarrassing both to the participants and to the state. Protection of criminals and those suspected of criminal action is an obligation of the state, an obligation that should be fulfilled in spite of all opposition.

Protection of citizens is an obligation of the state as well, however, and on the same day that dispatches brought accounts of the Anniston affair, there came the announcement that the first life had been taken in the Birmingham iron ore strike. A non-union miner was shot to death by snipers as he worked in his garden, attending to his own duties, taking no part in the affairs of the company or the union.

Since the strike began, several weeks ago, there had been a number of exchanges of gunfire between company employees and union men, but the shooting Monday was the first of serious consequences, and it appears that if loss of life and destruction of property are to mark labor disturbances, it is time the state took a hand there as well.

The fact that a man belongs to no brotherhood of workers is certainly no reason for his being shot to death by labor belligerents. His safety should be the concern of the state, and his freedom to pursue his work should be guaranteed by the government. The same officials who acted so effectively against Anniston mobs should be able surely to act as effectively in Birmingham to prevent any reoccurrence of Monday's. unfortunate incident.

CHARLESTON, S. C.
NEWS COURIER

JUL 10 1936

Let Us War Against Felony

Every good citizen is well aware that in South Carolina is too much crime, especially crime of violence. Lynching is a form of murder. Were murder and manslaughter punished as they should be, lynching would come to an end.

Often The News and Courier has pointed out that the only substantial gain from transferring the trials of lynchers from state to federal courts would come from the drawing of juries from large areas, the federal districts, instead of from a single county. In county public opinion about a lynching is usually excited and divided..

Nothing stands in the way of enacting state laws for the change of venue of the trial of lynchers to distant counties. That would accomplish the object that inheres in the bill pressed by the Society for the Advancement of the Colored People, for which Senator Wagner and Secretary Ickes are spokesmen. The Roosevelt administration is a silent but not a negative sponsor of the bill.

The suppression of lynching is important but not more important than the suppression of murder, arson, rape, burglary, highway robbery and other felonies.

The News and Courier proposes and advocates the change of venue in trials for all grave felonies. The inconvenience and expense would not be greater than those incident to trials in federal courts.

In short, we propose that felons be tried in seven or eight places in the state, that state laws be enacted that will so provide. Thus, a man accused of murder in Richland would be tried in Greenville or Florence by a jury drawn from twenty counties.

The new transportation, the automobile, good roads, has reduced an area of 15,000 square miles to 600, so far as convenience and expense of attending court are counted. Were lynchers tried in federal courts, the courts would be held in seven or eight town. Why not try murderers and incendiaries in the same way?

The News and Courier is not less concerned for the wiping out of South Carolina's shameful record of other forms of murder than of mob murder.

If change of venue would operate to suppress lynching it would have the same results in relation to other crimes, and it is strange that the South Carolinian apologists for the Costigan-Wagner bill are seemingly blind to the obviousness of this truth.

Are they interested as much as The News and Courier is for the extirpation of crime in South Carolina?

Between kidnaping and lynching is no resemblance. Kidnaping is often, indeed generally, an interstate offense; lynching seldom is.

If South Carolina is incapable of punishing crimes within its borders, nothing is to be hoped from the interference of the federal government—unless it shall substitute courts martial, as formerly it did, for state courts.

The News and Courier is not one of those capable of entertaining the thought that outside of South Carolina resides a superior virtue for the reform of the South Carolinians.

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont
July 16, 1936

Stirring Strife

SOUTH CAROLINA has had no lynching this year and no attempt at lynching except in the recent case at Dorchester, in which officers of the law very effectively stopped a mob.

The Columbia Record thinks that the Dorchester occurrence may have had some connection with the racial antagonism stirred up by some politicians this summer.

"Race prejudices," it rightly says, "are dangerous things to play politics with."

So they are, and we will welcome the day when South Carolina outgrows needless dragging of the race "issue" into political rows.

White South Carolinians are agreed that politically South Carolina is a white man's state and there is, therefore, no issue to it.

Why needlessly stir up strife?

Huntsville, Ala.. Times
July 15, 1936

Graves And Mobs

Governor Graves deserves, we think, a great deal of credit for the good work he has done in curbing mob action in this state.

On more than one occasion, his summary action in throwing the full power of his office and its resources behind local officials has prevented precipitate action by groups of enraged citizens.

The most recent case occurred at Anniston this week.

A respectable white woman was attacked by a negro while she was at work in her garden Monday, a few miles from the city.

Because there had lately been another case of alleged assault in the city, it was very easy for popular indignation to reach fever heat.

The circuit judge, sensing quickly the popular temper, called on Governor Graves to lend aid.

Several members of the state highway patrol were dispatched immediately, and National Guard units followed as soon as they could be mustered and sent by truck to Anniston.

But for the intervention of these state units, there would have been serious trouble yesterday morning, when hoodlums paraded the streets, and attacked innocent and defenseless negroes.

Harry Ayres, speaking in an editorial on the first page of his paper, The Anniston Star, said:

> It was in every sense an outrageous performance, and but for the prompt action of the city, county and state authorities, backed by the National Guard, might have eventuated in serious racial conflicts.
>
> No decent human being, white or black, sympathizes with the sort of person who will stoop to such crimes as have been committed by low-brow negroes in Anniston and Calhoun county recently.
>
> But there is no excuse for mobs to vent their spleen on innocent, law-abiding negroes, who have a right to earn their living in peaceful pursuits, and to use public thoroughfares without molestation.
>
> The constituted authorities who have had charge of the situation thus far are to be commended for their fine work.

The state highway patrol and the guard troops, dispatched to Anniston by Governor Graves, unquestionably prevented a race conflict of serious proportions, as local authorities, much as they desired to prevent mob action, did not have strength to cope with the infuriated crowds, which, unable to find the victim of their fury, wanted to wreak it on a lot of other innocent and defenseless negroes.

Governor Graves, it will be recalled, acted with similar promptness in sending patrolmen and troops here to prevent trouble, after a young high school girl was attacked and killed by a negro brute a few months ago.

Serious as may be his shortcomings in other respects, there is no doubt of Governor Graves' sincerity and courage in dealing with the problem of mobs of irate and irresponsible citizens.

Lynchings-1936
& Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

5308

GREENSBORO, N. C.
NEWS
JAN 4 1936

THE STATES MUST, OR ELSE

The formal announcement by Senator Van Nuys that he will demand a congressional investigation of lynching is further evidence that the nation and more particularly the south have not heard the last of the Costigan-Wagner bill or other legislation which is aimed at putting a federal curb upon this atrocity.

Since the senate concluded debate upon this measure last May and relegated it to a capitol pigeonhole, fourteen hapless victims have been done to death by mobs; and not in a single instance, so far as the Daily News learns and believes, have any punitive steps been taken against the mobsters. Surely this record and the lack of retributive justice offer effective answer to the contention of southern statesmen, as if similar answer had not been accumulating all these years, that federal anti-lynching legislation is—or was—not needed. The states, whose rights must not be violated, are, they have assured, capable of handling the situation.

Along with this favorite argument of preservation of state sovereignty, however paradoxical may be its use in condoning and perpetuating the flouting of the law and the constitution, is the assertion that progress is being made in eliminating the evil, that education must be given time to get in its work and its influence. Can it be that these selfsame educational forces are operating, all unbeknownst to themselves and their proponents, in reverse gear? Certainly there can be no boasting over a record of achievement which shows the total of 1935's lynchings—20 of 'em, count the victims hanging there from tree or telephone pole or sprawled grotesquely upon the courthouse lawn—a third higher than the 1934 aggregate, or three more than the yearly average for the preceding triennium.

The Daily News is desirous that the states retain as many of their rights, privileges and prerogatives as possible, for heaven knows they have little enough left. But arguments and oratory are no less hollow than ironic when they clash with the actual facts and figures on what the commonwealths are not doing. The states can either punish mobsters and prevent lynchings, or Washington will necessarily assume the task and the responsibility. There is generally a reason for extension of federal authority; and no exception is yet anywhere in sight in the bloody sphere of lynching.

Asheboro, N. C. Tribune
January 19, 1936

The sole lynching which occurred in North Carolina during 1935 was one within 25 miles of the state capital. It was a bold, broad daylight lynching, accomplished by white men who did not even take the precaution of wearing masks. Yet, though the lynching was almost under the shadow of the state capital, not one member of the mob which rang down the curtain of disgrace on the state has been apprehended. The sheriff from whom the hapless negro was taken was unable to recognize one member of the mob. The solicitor was unable to find a scintilla of evidence upon which to proceed with prosecution. If the Congress of the United States should pass a resolution requiring federal investigation of every lynching occuring in the United States, North Carolina should be one of the states which would be hypocritical were it to cry out against invasion of state's rights.

Athens, Ga., Banner-Herald
February 23, 1936

DECREASED NUMBER OF LYNCHINGS

While the number of lynchings for 1935 were five more than in 1934, the decrease in mob violence in recent years has shown marked improvement. According to statistics, there were twenty lynchings reported for last year, all of which occurred in the southern states, with the exception of one, which was credited to California. Of the twenty cases alleged to have taken place in 1935, only six of that number was for rape, the others for various reasons.

The Charleston, (S. C.) Post commends the people of South Carolina on their good behavior in keeping free from lynchings. In an editorial condemning lynchings, the Post says:

"South Carolina is not on this list of mob crime. It rarely is, which is much to the credit of its people. There is gratification, too, in the fact that in 53 instances this year officers of the law prevented lynchings, thus saving the lives of seventeen white and sixty-seven Negro prisoners. Nine of these successful frustrations of mob rule were reported from Northern and Western states and forty-four from Southern states. The pity is that in the situations from which lynching developed, and they had contact with, the authorities responsible for the safety of their prisoners did not show equal alertness or firmness."

It is gratifying to note the reduction in number of lynchings. It is to be hoped that this year will prove a record breaker by not having a case of mob violence in any of the states. Mississippi lead all other states in the number of lynchings during the year of 1935, seven out of the ten lynchings having occurred in that state.

Since the crime of rape is growing less every year, the number of lynchings is bound to decrease. It is regretable, however, that other crimes have been the cause of a majority of the lynchings. If, lynchings are justifiable, at all, they probably could be excused in cases of rape, but for no other crime. There is less brute in criminals of today than there was years ago. Education and the enforcement of the laws contribute much to the improved condition. It is the duty of all law abiding citizens to discourage mob violence and mob spirit in all cases of crime regardless of the provocation.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
February 23, 1936

Hon. J. C. B. Ehringhaus,
Governor of North Carolina;
Hon. A. A. F. Seawell, Attorney General;
Mr. William Y. Bickett, Solicitor,
Seventh Judicial District.

Gentlemen:

It has been six months or more this week since the noonday when a prisoner was taken from the sheriff and two deputies in Franklin county and lynched, and yet not an indictment has been returned or an arrest made in connection with the crime, so far as the public knows, although the members of the mob wore no disguise.

So far as the public knows, the State has made no effort to apprehend and bring to justice any of the lynchers, except that a brief hearing was conducted by Judge Harris, sitting as a committing magistrate, several days after the lynching, when the sheriff and his deputies testified they did not recognize any member of the mob or get the number of any of the automobiles the men used.

On the face of the record, as the public sees it, nobody in authority has been particularly interested in enforcing the law against those who took the law into their own hands and defied the State, the courts and the Constitution, to gratify their brutal vengeance against a prisoner. Nobody in authority has made any special effort, so far as the public knows, to demonstrate in this case that North Carolina is able to deal effectively with lynchers.

The State of North Carolina, by its record in the Franklin county case, has established a standing challenge to Congress to enact a Federal anti-lynching law. The Nation will not forever tolerate North Carolina's present manner of dealing with lynchers.

GENERAL MECKLENBURG.

Suffolk, Va., News-Herald
February 19, 1936

ABETS MOB VIOLENCE

It is a pity some legal way cannot be found whereby an end can be put to this grand farce in which two Negro slayers figure as chief characters. Yesterday Governor Peery refused to grant a further reprieve for John Shell and Joe Jackson scheduled to die in the electric chair Friday. The men were given a fair and impartial trial for the murder of a Spotsylvania farm couple, found guilty and sentenced to death.

From that moment till this a Negro lawyer in the pay of an organization maintained in New York city for the purpose, has been blocking justice. He has dragged the case from court to court, always with the same result, taking advantage of technicalities of the law prolonging the agony without the slightest hope of saving his clients. As long as his retainers will pay his salary and foot bills incident to the processes of interfering with justice these provocative proceedings bid fair to go on.

If we remember correctly, one of these men confessed to the brutal murder of the aged couple and incriminated the other. Later he was furnished a lawyer by the crusading and well-meaning organization whereupon the confession was repudiated. Since then the case has been constantly involved in controversies and appeals.

Lynching mobs are bitterly condemned in the south. But it is proceedings like these which breed the lynching spirit. The knowledge that men proved guilty beyond any reasonable doubt escape the penalty through technicalities and the manipulation of cunning lawyers offers an excuse for summary mob action. Further dalliance in this case is inexcusable and perhaps may contribute to future violent attacks by the lawless upon innocent persons charged with crime.

CHARLESTON, S. C.
NEWS COURIER

FEB 24 1936

Instigators of Lynching

About twenty years ago a white woman in Spartanburg county, this state, accused a negro of criminal assault, the man was arrested and that night a mob of some thousands surrounded the jail. The sheriff, Vernon White, refused to give up the man. The mob dynamited the gate of the jail, but the sheriff and his deputies with rifles defied it. The mob dispersed. The negro later was brought to trial. Responsible white men reached the conclusion that he was innocent and interested themselves in his behalf. The prosecuting officer, the late Mr. Hill, was convinced of the man's innocence and helped to establish it.

The population of Spartanburg is different from that of most Southern counties principally in that it is about 70 per cent. white. Seventy-five years the Southern states have been on the defensive in respect of the negro race. Its presence here in great numbers creates a problem, as it does in South Africa. There is no doubt about that.

The Southern white people are sensitive on the subject. There is too a lingering tradition, manifesting itself in action, that their right to control the affairs of their states remains despite the event of a great war.

What might have happened in Spartanburg after the repulse of the mob by Sheriff White if the Northern negro organizations and "liberals" had started a crusade and carried it on as they have done in the case of the Scottsboro negroes who, with a beautiful and unfailing affection they call the "boys", no one can say, but for the sake of the innocent negro we are glad that they did not kindle the passions of the Spartanburg people and cause them to think that they were under invasion.

No lynching is excusable. None has ever been. More than fifty years ago members of the staff of The News and Courier exposed their very lives in exposing lynchers. Members of the staff of another newspaper, The State, of Columbia, did as much after it came into being. Albeit that, until the census of 1930, negroes were the majority in South Carolina lynching has steadily decreased through the years. There has been little of it in the last ten years, two or three of the "lynchings" having been murders for private revenge in which the "mobs" were about as large as that that killed a gambler in New York city or that shot down enemies on a St. Valentine's day in Chicago. In the South such proceedings are invariably described by a part of the Northern, or foreign, press as "lynchings." We say "foreign". for foreign it is in understanding of the South.

Nor do we question the right of the North and the Northern press to denounce crime in the South. We lay claim to that right and exercise it at times toward the Hitlerites in Germany and outlaws of Williamson county, Illinois.

Still, we say that if agencies in New York would undo the work of eradicating lynching in the South they can do so by going too far in their activities. They will not attain their objectives in Alabama unless they shall destroy that state and in the pursuit of their aims, whether they be godly or not, they will paralyze the arms of defenders whom the negroes undoubtedly need and have had against cruelty and ruffianism.

It is not pleasant to The News and Courier to witness the making of negro victims by Northern "liberals" in their mistaken efforts to befriend them.

MIAMI, FLA.
NEWS

FEB 29 1936

TRENDS OF THE TIMES

There was a lynching on the Maryland Eastern shore. The lynching was a popular event on that side of the state. The lynchers were heroes, not murderers, there. As often happens where lynchers rule, local public opinion supported the violence, refused to punish the perpetrators.

Albert G. Ritchie, governor of Maryland, saw the lynching in a different light. He was sworn to uphold the laws of Maryland, laws which forbade murder whether by single men or by masses of men. He insisted on the vindication of Maryland law.

Soon thereafter he was up for re-election. He was beaten by a few score votes. The votes which his attitude in the lynching case cost him on the Eastern shore were more than enough to account for his defeat.

The cost of the governor's faithfulness was the governor's defeat.

It is often so in politics. That's why there is so much faithlessness in politics.

Lexington, S. C. Dispatch-News
March 5, 1936

Concerning Lynchings

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CHARLESTON, S. C.
NEWS & COURIER

FEB 24 1936

Instigators of Lynching

About twenty years ago a white woman in Spartanburg county, this state, accused a negro of criminal assault, the man was arrested and that night a mob of some thousands surrounded the jail. The sheriff, Vernon White, refused to give up the man. The mob dynamited the gate of the jail, but the sheriff and his deputies with rifles defied it. The mob dispersed. The negro later was brought to trial. Responsible white men reached the conclusion that he was innocent and interested themselves in his behalf. The prosecuting officer, the late Mr. Hill, was convinced of the man's innocence and helped to establish it.

The population of Spartanburg is different from that of most Southern counties principally in that it is about 70 per cent. white. Seventy-five years the Southern states have been on the defensive in respect of the negro race. Its presence here in great numbers creates a problem, as it does in South Africa. There is no doubt about that.

The Southern white people are sensitive on the subject. There is too a lingering tradition, manifesting itself in action, that their right to control the affairs of their states remains despite the event of a great war.

What might have happened in Spartanburg after the repulse of the mob by Sheriff White if the Northern negro organizations and "liberals" had started a crusade and carried it on as they have done in the case of the Scottsboro negroes who, with a beautiful and unfailing affection they call the "boys", no one can say, but for the sake of the innocent negro we are glad that they did not kindle the passions of the Spartanburg people and cause them to think that they were under invasion.

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Lynchings 1936
& Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

5307

Durham, N. C. Herald
July 20, 1936

HURRAH FOR LAW AND ORDER

On July 30, 1935, Govan "Sweat" Ward, insane Negro of Franklin county, was snatched from the sheriff of that county and lynched. Pronto Solicitor Bickett of that district went to the scene indulging in lavish promises to ferret out the guilty parties even as he applied the brakes to his car. To date nothing has come of the ferreting and it has been the better part of a year since the subject claimed Solicitor Bickett's or any one else's attention.

Back behind that, of course, is the Pender county lynching which was to have been probed by a solicitor who seems never to have gotten as far as giving Governor Ehringhaus a report he was one-time prone to await for.

Why disturbing dogs so dead, some one asks. Well, not because we have any notion the bringing them up will disturb agents of the law who have refused so long to be disturbed over so violent assault on the law they purport to love and defend. We just thought maybe a little looking back would possibly help to explain the sudden evaporating of the boastful talk that emerged from law enforcement agencies in the Columbus county area. Let's see, it was about two weeks or maybe three, ago that solicitors and sheriffs were saying how they were going to get at the bottom of night-rider floggings in the Clarendon section of Columbus county. Everybody applauded and waited for action. Names and places were uncovered. But the next news was that the solicitor was enjoying a sojourn at the beach and the sheriff was thinking of looking into the flogging sometime in the future. Now, the solicitor says there is no evidence on which he can depend and victims of one visit by the terrorist gang are wondering what to do about a second warning to vacate Clarendon. The sheriff obliges by promising the Fowler girls protection, but the protection of a sheriff who does nothing about night-rider floggings is, we should think, protection not to be leaned on with safety.

And in case any one is resentful of the indictment lodged against North Carolina and its agents of law and ordar, let them remember that across the line in South Carolina the sheriff dropped his probe of a flogging episode when the victim decided he deserved the beating he got. The South Carolina sheriff says he can not prosecute when the victim refuses to prosecute, which is, to say the least, a new interpretation of the criminal law. We always heard flogging was a violation of the criminal law and that society stands in the place of the prosecutor when the criminal law is invaded.

But witnesses must be had for trials and probably the sheriff just didn't feel like going out and digging up any witnesses.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
July 17, 1936

ORDER AGAIN TRIUMPHS

Again the forces of law and order have triumphed over the mob spirit in Alabama. All praise to the various agencies whose diligence prevented a lynching and race riot at Anniston Monday and yesterday.

Governor Graves deserves credit for his prompt use of the National Guard and State Highway Patrol in the emergency. Judge R. B. Carr, Sheriff Cotton and Police Chief Rutledge of Anniston co-operated with courage and vigor.

Harry Ayres, publisher of The Anniston Star, won the admiration of his confreres in journalism by the following editorial printed yesterday denouncing men who so forget themselves as to vent their feelings on the innocent:

> The action of the hoodlums who paraded the streets of Anniston this morning attacking all innocent and defenseless Negroes of the community, driving them from the streets and otherwise abusing them without cause, cannot be be too strongly condemned. It was in every sense an outrageous performance and but for the prompt action of the City, County and State authorities, backed by the National Guard, might have eventuated in serious racial conflicts.
>
> No decent human being, white or black, sympathizes with the sort of person who will stoop to such crimes as have been committed by low-brow Negroes in Anniston and Calhoun County recently. But that is no excuse for mobs to vent their spleen on innocent, law-abiding Negroes, who have a right to earn their living in peaceful pursuits and to use the public thoroughfares without molestation. It is to be hoped sincerely that there will be no recurrence of these illegal demonstrations.

The Negro identified as the criminal is now safely in prison and will be tried and punished as befits his crime. Justice will be satisfied without besmirching the name of Anniston and Alabama by a throw-back to the jungle code.

It is a lesson which all thinking citizens will bear in mind whenever the temptation arises to substitute savagery for the orderly processes of the law. Taken with the recent case at Huntsville and that near Goodwater, it is an encouraging sign that lynch law has been discredited in Alabama.—Birmingham Post.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
July 16, 1936

Victory At Anniston

It is a notable victory over the gravest kind of danger that seems to have been safely won at Anniston.

Quiet has been restored after hours of high tension, excitement and even sporadic racial violence following an attempted attack by a Negro on a white woman. Quiet has been restored and the general outbreak of fighting that long seemed possible at any minute has been averted; a man, reported to have confessed as the attacker, has been found, arrested and placed in Kilby Prison for safe-keeping, and the swift operation of the orderly forces of the law apparently is assured.

This is a very heartening and reassuring accomplishment under acute difficulties. It is another chapter in the splendid progress Alabama, conspicuously among Southern states, is making against mob rule and racial prejudice.

For there can be no question that terrifying potentialities existed in the situation Tuesday. The representatives of the law, state, city and county, the guardsmen and the citizens, too, who exercised and counseled restraint, are due the profound admiration and gratitude of all the people of the state.

Comparatively, only a few persons in Anniston could have deliberately desired illegal action. But it was in the power of these few possibly to incite others and produce a situation with unspeakable horrors. Congratulations, therefore, to the men of the law and the good citizens of Calhoun County who upheld the law and stood off the threat of barbarism.

COLUMBIA, S. C.
RECORD

JUL 13 1936

Playing With Fire.

There was not a lynching in South Carolina in the first six months of 1935. There wasn't a lynching the other day in Dorchester county although there might have been had not Dorchester's officers, to Dorchester's pride, been the efficient and trustworthy officers they are.

And there might still have been had the members of the might-have-been-mob, balked at the jail, gone cut, as some mobs have, seeking whom they might destroy. But it did not, for the truth is that fundamentally Dorchester is not a lynching county and this demonstration of the mob spirit is out of its character.

Probably more than anything else it is to be explained as the fruit of the efforts of those who ought to know better to stir up race prejudice in South Carolina. Race prejudices are dangerous things to play politics with.

Oxford, N. C. Ledger
August 11, 1936

LYNCH OR EXECUTE?

Sentenced to death for assault on a young white girl in a neighboring community, an aged Granville county negro, John Kinon, has entered a plea for clemency on the grounds of insanity and old age.

To judge a man and take away his life is a serious matter, even when it is the state that passes judgment. There are many who declare that the state really assumes an uncomfortable responsibility when it takes from a man not only his life but all chances of reforming before death. Certainly to execute an insane man for the commission of a crime enacted when he was not in his right mind is a mistake to be avoided if possible. There are, however, other things to be considered.

About a year ago a mob in a near-by county lynched a negro who had committed a crime similar to that for which John Kinon is sentenced to die. Almost any man in that mob would have declared that he had participated in the lynching because he had learned by previous observation that sometimes the state does not administer justice. Those men were determined that the culprit should get his just punishment, and they were not pleased with the prospect of leaving the case up to a trial of wits between lawyers, nor up to a jury, at least one member of which would probably become obsessed with a desire to hold out against the majority in the intoxication of the sudden realization of the importance of his own single opinion.

What mobs have done in the past they will likely continue to do for some time. Human nature has not changed greatly, and however nonchalantly the modern man may submit to a court the petty wrongs done him, there are still some instances in which he will make sure that justice is administered — even if he has to take down his old double-barrel rifle and do it himself.

This is not the place to argue the inconsistency of such usurpation of the powers of justice by a supposedly civilized man. Nor is it the place to discuss whether capital punishment is legitimate. Nor, indeed, is it the place to discuss whether John Kinon is insane. The question is simply this — or very close to it: is it better for the state to execute John Kinon or for a mob to lynch the next negro that perpetrates the same crime? Which is better: harsh justice or harsher mob violence? — D. M.

Samson, Ala., Ledger
August 6, 1936

ATTACK EPIDEMIC TRACEABLE TO SCOTTSBORO DELAY

There is little doubt in the minds of many thinking people that the current attacks by negroes on white women is directly traceable to the delay in final disposal of the Scottsboro cases. Regardless of the fact that Alabama has met all requirements of the United States supreme court, and that future attacks upon the decisions of Alabama courts along the line of alleged racial discrimination will probably fail, there is no doubt a feeling among criminally disposed negroes that the federal government will prevent their execution for attacks on white people.

Likewise there is little doubt in our mind that the gathering of mobs which threaten the summary execution of accused negro ravishers is directly traceable to the Scottsboro case delay. The people as a whole will stand just so much legal delay. Many of them are thoroughly disgusted with the ease with which criminals escape their just deserts, either by grace of the lawyers or by mistaken (so we think) clemency on the part of the executive authority.

Jesse Pomeroy was convicted in Massachusetts of a disreputable crime when the Ledger editor was a boy, and Jesse Pomeroy is still in the penitentiary if he is alive. Nowadays men are convicted of even more atrocious crimes and are free in a few years, sometimes a few months it seems.

Lynching in Alabama had almost become a thing of the past only a few years ago. Sometimes more than a year would elapse between lynchings in this state. The Scottsboro cases have convinced the people that justice as practiced by the courts — especially the appellate courts — is too slow and the meshes too large, and they are getting back to the old system of lynch law. While we may regret lynch law and hope for a more orderly procedure, still we can scarcely blame excited men fo meeting out swift justice, saving ruinous expense and avoiding miscarriage of the courts.

Criminals have been emboldened by the Scottsboro fiasco, the orderly citizens have become incensed and the end is not yet.

White Press, Southern.

Lynchings-1936
6
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Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
January 1, 1936

Judge Lynch's Unlimited Authority.

When Judge Lynch first began to hold court his victims were only Negroes accused of crimes against white women. His services were not needed even in those cases, since we have laws for the punishment of all kinds of crimes, and courts to administer the laws. But as time passed and mob murders continued to be committed with impunity, Judge Lynch became emboldened and extended his authority to cover all sorts of offenses or alleged offenses. And he ceased to draw the color line.

So it happens that of the twenty persons lynched during 1935 two were white, that some of the victims were accused of nothing more serious than misdemeanors, and others had committed no offense that was punishable by law. Also that of the eighty-four persons that were saved from death at the hands of mobs by officers of the law, who frustrated fifty-three attempted lynchings either by force or by taking prisoners to places of safety, seventeen were white.

Of the twenty persons lynched, only six were Negroes accused of assaulting or attempting to assault white women, the crime which Judge Lynch originally presumed to punish. Mob lawlessness never was justified for the protection of white women, and in recent years organizations of Southern woman have formally denounced it and demanded its suppression. But now, as in the beginning, the mob operates with little fear of the law because constituted authority seems to recoil from the challenge which mob lawlessness presents. And because of this attitude of constituted authority, as already said, the mob has extended its activities and deals out deaths to white as well as colored persons and for misdemeanors as well as high crimes.

Incidentally, it was a mistake to say in this column the other day that all of the twenty lynchings in 1935 occurred in the South. One of them was perpetrated in California, but that does not relieve the South of the deep disgrace of nineteen lynchings.

Savannah, Ga., Press
January 6, 1936

THE CHARLESTON NEWS AND COURIER is pleased with the South Carolina record on lynching for the past year:

In South Carolina last year was no lynching. Indeed, lynching has almost ceased in this state. If the practice be related to the proportion of negroes to whites in the population, South Caroline's record in respect of it is cleaner that that of an other Southern state—cleaner than that of some of the Northern states along the Mason and Dixon line and the Ohio river. For lynching is no excuse, no defense. In any, in all, circumstances it is murder, simple, naked and always cowardly murder. No other name fits it. Lynching is a people's confession of savagery. It is their proclamation to the world that they are without capacity to govern by law.

Charleston, S. C., **Evening Post**
January 3, 1936

TOO MANY LYNCHINGS

If this country had had only one lynching during the year of 1935 that would be one too many, but figures recently compiled show twenty persons were victims of mob spirit that attained murderous intensity, five more than was the deplorable record of 1934. Thirteen of the persons lynched were taken from jails, officers of law outside of jails, or slain within jail. California was the lone State not of the South where this crime occurred, there being one lynching reported from this Pacific Coast Commonwealth. One lynching took place each in North Carolina and Tennessee, two each in Georgia, Florida, and Texas, four in Louisiana, and seven in Mississippi. It is significant and disturbing to note that the crime which at one time was almost the sole motive for perpetration of lynching was this year charged in only six cases, the fourteen others including alleged murder, altercation, share cropper organizing, attacking a person, taking prisoner from an officer, slapping a woman, and communistic activity, while one victim of a mob was slain during search for another man.

South Carolina is not on this list of mob crime. It rarely is, which is much to the credit of its people. There is gratification, too, in the fact that in 53 instances this year officers of the law prevented lynchings, thus saving the lives of seventeen white and sixty-seven negro prisoners. Nine of these successful frustrations of mob rule were reported from Northern and Western States and forty-four from Southern States. The pity is that in the situations from which lynching developed, and they had contact with, the authorities responsible for the safety of their prisoners did not show equal alertness or firmness.

CHARLESTON, S. C.
POST
JAN 3 1936

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Florence, S. C., News
January 7, 1936

LYNCHING IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Under the law no crime warrants lynching. Nor is there any moral support for the act of the mob in taking the law into its own hands. South Carolina's record of lynchings, if surveyed for the past score or more of years, would not make pleasant reading nor would it resound to the credit of the state. But during 1935 as The News and Courier points out, there was no lynching in South Carolina and for that the state should be thankful. "Lynching is a people's confession of savagery. It is their proclamation to the world that they are without capacity to govern by law," remarks the News and Courier."

CHARLESTON, S. C.
NEWS AND COURIER
JAN 4 1936

The Crime of Lynching

In South Carolina last year was no lynching. Indeed, lynching has almost ceased in this state. If the practice be related to the proportion of negroes to whites in the population, South Carolina's record in respect of it is cleaner than that of any other Southern state—cleaner than that of some of the Northern states along the Mason and Dixon line and the Ohio river.

For lynching is no excuse, no defence. In any, in all, circumstances it is murder, simple, naked and always cowardly murder. No other name fits it.

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Charlotte, N. C., News
January 6, 1936

The States Must, or Else.

(Greensboro News.)

The formal announcement by Senator Van Nuys that he will demand a congressional investigation of lynching is further evidence that the nation and more particularly the south have not heard the last of the Costigan-Wagner bill or other legislation which is aimed at putting a federal curb upon this atrocity.

Since the senate concluded debate upon this measure last May 1 and relegated it to a capitol pigeonhole, fourteen hapless victims have been done to death by mobs; and not in a single instance, so far as The Daily News learns and believes, have any punitive steps been taken against the mobsters. Surely this record and the lack of retributive justice offer effective answer to the contention of southern statesmen, as if similar answer had not been accumulating all these years, that federal anti-lynching legislation is—or was—not needed. The states, whose rights must not be violated, are, they have assured, capable of handling the situation.

Along with this favorite argument of preservation of state sovereignty, however paradoxical may be its use in condoning and perpetuating the flouting of the law and the constitution, is the assertion that progress is being made in eliminating the evil, that education must be given time to get in its work and its influence. Can it be that these selfsame educational forces are operating, all unbeknownst to themselves and their proponents, in reverse gear? Certainly there can be no boasting over a record of achievement which shows the total of 1935's lynchings—20 of 'em, count the victims hanging there from tree or telephone pole or sprawled grotesquely upon the courthouse lawn—a third higher than the 1934 aggregate, or three more than the yearly average for the preceding triennium.

The Daily News is desirous that the states retain as many of their rights, privileges and prerogatives as possible, for heaven knows they have little enough left. But arguments and oratory are no less hollow than ironic when they clash with the actual facts and figures on what the commonwealths are not doing. The states can either punish mobsters and prevent lynchings, or Washington will necessarily assume the task and the responsibility. There is generally a reason for extension of federal authority; and no exception is yet anywhere in sight in the bloody sphere of lynching.

[redacted]

WHAT OUR READERS SAY

The News-Journal welcomes letters, especially brief expressions of opinions on general subjects; these must be free from libel and personal abuse. As evidence of good faith, the name and address of the sender will be required with all letters accepted for publication. However, if the writer so desires, the name will be used only for confidential filing data, and need not be printed with the letter.

To The News-Journal:

To the Editor of the Evening News-Journal, of Clovis.

Dear Editor:

I note you are accepting articles on different subjects this new year. I have chosen for my subject, The Negro in Politics. As so much is being said about the negro in politics, I take this method of expressing my views on this all important subject.

The time has come when negroes should vote as the American whites, for expedience. I know how every negro feels toward those heroes who have passed on, i.e.—Wm. Lord Garrison, E. P. Lovejoy, Horace Greeley, John Brown, Abe Lincoln and others, who have championed our cause. But to this new republican party the negroes owe no debt of gratitude. The negro has at last learned that Abe Lincoln is dead and the principles for which he stood have been abolished.

This new republican party is calling for the Honorable Senator Wm. E. Borah, of Idaho, to be their standard bearer. It must be admitted that Senator Borah is one of the ablest men in the U. S. Senate. But he is self righteous, a great champion of property rights, but doesn't care for human rights when it comes to his brothers in black.

We who keep books, will remember Mr. Borah's attitude in respect to the anti-lynching bill in 1922-1935 Also the senator is well informed of all subjects and ranks highly as a constitutional authority, but to the 15,000,000 members of our race of America, he is no friend. He and his associates stopped passage of the Costigan-Wagner bill in the Senate early last 1935 year. Although indifferent to the conditions of black Americans, the senator took a keen interest in foreign people. In the Senate he was the chief advocate of America's recognition of Soviet Russia. He assumed that recognition would create a potential market in which we could dispose of several hundred millions of dollars of our surplus goods yearly. This assumption proved to be all wet.

Several months ago he became greatly perturbed over the religious persecution of the Catholics in Old Mexico. He wanted the U. S. government to intervene, but when it comes to persecutions of his own black fellow countrymen, Mr. Borah suddenly becomes deaf, dumb and blind. He stated recently should he become president and the bill come before him, he would veto it. Again self-righteous and dictator. Why not pass it up to the U. S. Supreme Court if unconstitutional, and let that body say whether unconstitutional or not?

The 15,000,000 negroes in America should pray that the republicans nominate Senator Borah, then that will make President Roosevelt's election unanimous.

The republicans are trying to coax we who have strayed away, back to the fold. The black voters who have slavishly followed the republican leadership, have not received much recognition for their loyalty, since the days of Theodore Roosevelt as head political bandmaster, at the nation's capital. Their star of hope began to sink when Mr. Taft took over the reins of the government and it continued to descend upon President Harding and Coolidge and finally its last lingering rays under President Hoover.

Whether you agree or disagree with the many innovations of the present administration, it is nevertheless true, that at the national capital, they have shown a more liberal recognition of our group than any republican government since the death of Theodore Roosevelt. The democrats did not make any promises to the colored brother when they were running for office, but they have made some outstanding appointments since they have been fruitful with promises while running for office, but scant on fulfilling after election.

So many of my friends have written me asking me why I quit the republican party. I did not quit the party, the party quit me. I believe the time has come when the negro should vote with his friends whether they be socialists, democrats or republicans. We should vote for man and measure.

As I see it the negro politically, is just a part from a party. I am not an alarmist, neither am I a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but I want to drop this word of warning, the time has come when the negro must strive to keep his old friends and make new ones if possible.

To the 6000 negro voters in New Mexico, may I say, Senator Carl A. Hatch and Congressman J. J. Dempsey (democrats if you please) are the champions of human rights. We found them in the last congress, fighting for the passage of the anti-lynching bill. Are we going to vote against men like them for men like Senator Borah and his associates? God forbid. I know every respectful negro in New Mexico and the nation would consider himself or herself an ingrate to go against these gentlemen for republicans like Senator Borah.

You will pardon me for personal reference, you will remember a speech the writer made to 500 men and women of our group Oct. 1934 at the Peoples Hall, Albuquerque. Judge L. Shields (white) and other whites were present. I said when Senator Carl A. Hatch goes back to the United States Senate, and Honorable J. J. Dempsey goes to the house of representatives, the negroes of New Mexico would have two friends in congress. When the anti-lynching bill comes up they will vote right.

I was taken to task by my republican brethren, early in January. I said to Rev. O. F. Dixon, (moderator of the Mt. Olive Baptist State Assn., Inc.) have the leaders of the republican club write the Senators and Congressmen, and ask them how they stand on the Costigan-Wagner bill. They wrote them. Senator Hatch's reply was: "I have always been against lynching, and shall vote for the passage of that bill." The late Senator Cutting said: "I will do what I think is right." Congressman J. J. Dempsey said: "I shall vote for the passage of the bill." When the voting came up, Senator Hatch and Congressman Dempsey voted for the passage of it. If I should vote against these men and vote for such republicans as Senator Borah and his followers, I feel like I would be committing the unpardonable sin.

So colored brethren, negroes, Afro-Americans which ever name you prefer to be called, let us organize our group and hang together or we will hang separately.

May I say that the great humanitarian, Franklin D. Roosevelt, was sitting at his desk ready to sign the bill, not to veto it. If the big boys will let F. D. R. alone he will pull us out of this depression.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year,

Wm. Young,
415 W. 1st St

Columbia, S. C. State
March 18, 1936

Eradication of Lynching.

There can be no disagreement with the latest statement from the commission on interracial co-operation that education is a fundamental in the cure of the lynching evil. Poverty and ignorance have always been the handmaidens of crime. That this particularly hideous offense against civilization has flourished in the "least wealthy and cultured" states is not at all surprising. Neither, however, must it be overlooked that there was no waiting for wealth to return to the war-ravaged Southern states for the fight against lynching to be begun within this section. The battle begun approximately half a century ago by courageous editors of Southern newspapers was conducted by a press as weak financially as it was strong in its militant stand on mob-law. The sinews of this war were not dollars but principles.

The return of a measure of material welfare will do two things to help down lynching. It will remove the economic pressure which has sometimes been a cause of racial friction; and it will improve educational facilities, thus lifting the cultural level.

These two processes are gong on surely but slowly. To reinforce them there is needed the continued fight of every other influence available to educate public opinion against this lingering barbarity. Home, school, church and press must carry on to inculcate respect for law and to maintain the ideals of democracy and even of civilizaiton itself.

Lynchings - 1936
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

5310

Murfreesboro, Tenn., News-Journal
February 3, 1936

THE SOUTH LEADS AGAIN

In 1935 the South again led the nation in the number of lynchings with a total of 17 out of the nation's 20. Of this number blood-thirsty mobs in Mississippi strung up 7, Louisiana accounted for 4, while Georgia, Florida and Texas 2 each. Of the year's mob victims 18 were negroes and 2 white. Instead of the people who make up such mobs becoming more civilized as some would have us believe the total of 20 for 1935 as compared with 15 in 1934, indicates the contrary is true.

The fault for this increase lies largely at the door of law enforcement officers who after a prefunctory investigation announce they can find no one who was present at the lynching, altho the mob may have been composed of several hundred people from the community. When by accident someone is identified as having been a participant, by a spectator, the judges either dismiss the charges because of the "lack of evidence" or impose a light sentence and parole the prisoner, instead of making an example of him or her, so that others will not be so anxious to take the law into their own hands.

Such a black mark on the South can only be erased by educating children to respect the law so that they will not take it into their own hands when they are grown, and in imposing such severe penalties on adults that they will through fear let the law take its course.

Savannah, Ga., News
February 15, 1936

Too Many Lynchings.

Charleston Evening Post: If this country had had only one lynching during the year of 1935 that would be one [illegible] many, but figures recently compiled show twenty persons were victims of mob spirit that attained murderous intensity, five more than was the deplorable record of 1934. Thirteen of the persons lynched were taken from jails, officers of law outside of jails, or slain within jails. California was the lone state not of the South where this crime occurred, there being one lynching reported from this Pacific coast commonwealth. One lynching took place each in North Carolina and Tennessee, two each in Georgia, Florida, and Texas, four in Louisiana, and seven in Mississippi. It is significant and disturbing to note that the crime which at one time was almost the sole motive for perpetration of lynching was this year charged in only six cases, the fourteen others including alleged murder, altercation, share cropper organizing, attacking a person, taking prisoner from an officer, slapping a woman, and communistic activity; while one victim of a mob was slain during search for another man.

South Carolina is not on this list of mob crime. It rarely is, which is much to the credit of its people. There is gratification, too, in the fact that in 53 instances this year officers of the law prevented lynchings, thus saving the lives of seventeen white and sixty-seven negro prisoners. [illegible] of these successful frustrations of mob rule were reported from Northern and Western states and forty-four from Southern states. The pity is that in the situations from which lynching developed, and they had contact with, the authorities responsible for the safety of their prisoners did not show equal alertness or firmness.

TAMPA, FLA
TRIBUNE

FEB 11 1936

MURDERS AND LYNCHINGS

TAMPA.—Literary Digest an independent, politically speaking, periodical as it claims? Read introduction to article "Lynchings Stir Southern Debate"—"Why don't you preach to your own people, who hang and burn black men?" said an African chieftain to an American missionary. "What answer could be given?" asks the Springfield (Mass.) Union (Rep.)

Answer: When any man, Caucasian, Mongolian or negro, outrages somebody's mother, wife, daughter, sister or sweetheart in Dixie they invite sentence of the unwritten law. Same is true in Yankeedom.

Above mentioned Digest article brands that periodical as Republican (1860 politico-parson damnyankee type).

As Bishop Candler observes, in one northern city there are more murders in one year, perpetrators not punished, than there are lynchings in all the South in 10 years, just as dead as if lynched and for no crime against domestic tranquillity, but about money, among gangsters, racketeers, etc.

Why peck on the South? Human nature, Brisbane to the contrary, is about the same whether in the South, among chivalrous Knights and Cavaliers, or in New England or further west in the land of Lincoln.

A. H. DAVENPORT.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
February 24, 1936

Instigators of Lynching

About twenty years ago a white woman in Spartanburg county, this state, accused a negro of criminal assault, the man was arrested and that night a mob of some thousands surrounded the jail. The sheriff, Vernon White, refused to give up the man. The mob dynamited the gate of the jail, but the sheriff and his deputies with rifles defied it. The mob dispersed. The negro later was brought to trial. Responsible white men reached the conclusion that he was innocent and interested themselves in his behalf. The prosecuting officer, the late Mr. Hill, was convinced of the man's innocence and helped to establish it.

The population of Spartanburg is different from that of most Southern counties principally in that it is about 70 per cent. white. Seventy-five years the Southern states have been on the defensive in respect of the negro race. Its presence here in great numbers creates a problem, as it does in South Africa. There is no doubt about that.

The Southern white people are sensitive on the subject. There is too a lingering tradition, manifesting itself in action, that their right to control the affairs of their states remains despite the event of a great war.

What might have happened in Spartanburg after the repulse of the mob by Sheriff White if the Northern negro organizations and "liberals" had started a crusade and carried it on as they have done in the case of the Scottsboro negroes who, with a beautiful and unfailing affection they call the "boys", no one can say, but for the sake of the innocent negro we are glad that they did not kindle the passions of the Spartanburg people and cause them to think that they were under invasion.

No lynching is excusable. None has ever been. More than fifty years ago members of the staff of The News and Courier exposed their very lives in exposing lynchers. Members of the staff of another newspaper, The State, of Columbia, did as much after it came into being. Albeit that, until the census of 1930, negroes were the majority in South Carolina lynching has steadily decreased through the years. There has been little of it in the last ten years, two or three of the "lynchings" having been murders for private revenge in which the "mobs" were about as large as that that killed a gambler in New York city or that shot down enemies on a St. Valentine's day in Chicago. In the South such proceedings are invariably described by a part of the Northern, or foreign, press as "lynchings." We say "foreign". for foreign it is in understanding of the South.

Nor do we question the right of the North and the Northern press to denounce crime in the South. We lay claim to that right and exercise it at times toward the Hitlerites in Germany and outlaws of Williamson county, Illinois.

Still, we say that if agencies in New York would undo the work of eradicating lynching in the South they can do so by going too far in their activities. They will not attain their objectives in Alabama unless they shall destroy that state and in the pursuit of their aims, whether they be godly or not, they will paralyze the arms of defenders whom the negroes undoubtedly need and have had against cruelty and ruffianism.

It is not pleasant to The News and Courier to witness the making of negro victims by Northern "liberals" in their mistaken efforts to befriend them.

Miami, Fla., News
February 29, 1936

TRENDS OF THE TIMES

There was a lynching on the Maryland Eastern shore. The lynching was a popular event on that side of the state. The lynchers were heroes, not murderers, there. As often happens where lynchers rule, local public opinion supported the violence, refused to punish the perpetrators.

Albert G. Ritchie, governor of Maryland, saw the lynching in a different light. He was sworn to uphold the laws of Maryland, laws which forbade murder whether by single men or by masses of men. He insisted on the vindication of Maryland law.

Batesburg, S. C., News
March 4, 1936

Concerning Lynchings

No lynching is excusable. None has ever been. More than 50 years ago members of the staff of The News and Courier exposed their very lives in exposing lynchers. Members of the staff of another newspaper, The State, of Columbia, did as much after it came into being. Albeit that, until the census of 1930, Negroes were the majority in South Carolina lynching has steadily decreased through the years. There has been little of it in the last ten years, two or three of the "lynchings" having been murders for private revenge in which the "mobs" were about as large as that that killed a gambler in New York City or that shot down enemies on a St. Valentine's day in Chicago. In the South such proceedings are invariably described by a part of the Northern, or foreign, press as "lynchings." We say "foreign" for foreign it is in understanding of the South.—News and Courier.

Burlington, N. C. Times
March 3, 1936

JUST TO KEEP 'EM BUSY

IF WE MIGHT suggest it, while the members of Congress are experiencing a comparative lull now with the farm bill enacted and the tax message of the President up and coming, why not let the solons occupy their time with a revival of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill?

Debate over such a measure and its resultant publicity achieves a two-fold purpose: it shows the South up in its more grimly lurid colors of sociological distortion, and it shows up the tenor of a great many of the South's chosen representatives of the people.

In other words, everybody admits that the anti-lynching bill is an invaluable contribution to legislation—if it could ever be passed. And why can't it be passed? Because that precious shibboleth of the South — the tormented and hackneyed phrase "States' rights" —stands as an emphasized barrier between passage of such a measure and the fear Dixie's lawmakers have of the wrath of their constituents.

The Costigan-Wagner measure inflicts heavy fines or prison sentences upon officers of the law who permit mobs to take their prisoners and rush them away on lynching bees; or upon officers who do not act with the best of their ability to protect their prisoners; it fines counties in which lynchings occur from $2,000 to $10,000, regardless of the circumstances of the mob murder, and the money goes to the family of the victim; and it makes severe punishment mandatory of all identifiable members of the mob.

Could any bill be fairer, more justly drafted to help eradicate a menace peculiarly Southern (but still not confined exclusively to this section of the nation)? Then why isn't it promptly passed?

The answer is easy: spouting filibustering oratory from those Senators of Dixie who hold so dear to their hearts states' rights, the "pure flower of Southern womanhood", the supremacy of the "Nordic" (find one if you can), the complete, absolute and in toto subjugation of the Negro and—last but so far, far from least—an acute desire to return to the chambers of Congress which transcends any sociological duty they may feel toward putting shackles on that animal sadism of mob spirit.

These mighty bellowers for states' rights were, strangely enough, mute upon the topic when the AAA was invoked. When the Lindbergh anti-kidnaping law was enacted. When the Mann act was legislated. When the Interstate Commerce Commission became a reality.

But just let the anti-lynching bill be mentioned, and their voices fill and choke up with emotion; no, no, weep they, lynching is a Southern prerogative, so we demand the right to legislate against it as we see fit.

Well and good — if the Southern states, within the respective confines of their general assemblies, would so legislate. So far, we are informed, one state only has enacted a law similar to the Costigan-Wagner act—South Carolina. And with the passage of such a measure did the lynchings in that old-fashioned state of the glorious old South (hear, hear!) strike a decline!

SAVANNAH, GA.
PRESS

FEB 18 1936

TO PREVENT LYNCHINGS.

The North Carolina State Bar Association has a movement under way which must have as one of its purposes the defeat of proposed measures in the national Congress looking to the elimination of lynchings in the various states of the Union. While North Carolina has been comparatively free of the lynching evil for the past few years, a commission has been appointed by the president of the state bar association to study the subject and draft recommendations for a state lynching law. The commission is headed by Judge Roy L. Deal of Winston-Salem.

Lynching has been fairly well controlled since the inauguration of Cameron Morrison as governor early in 1921. He made it plain he would hold law enforcement officers accountable for any lynchings that vigilance could prevent. Several times during his term of office he called out state troops to protect prisoners. Results proved wholesome and were reflected in subsequent years.

Now it is proposed to take further steps and have a state lynching law with teeth in it. Something that is not evasive and which will mean punishment of those who engage in lynchings.

There are a number of states that might follow the example of North Carolina. Lynching is very largely criminal and inexcusable. There are some who declare there is one crime for which lynching is the proper penalty. But there are too many lynchings for crimes other than this one.

The national movement seeking to place a continent-wide ban upon this evil is quiescent for the moment, but those in Washington and elsewhere who are cognizant of the real situation know just how little would be required to make it a dominant thought again in the minds of the nation's lawmakers.

The North Carolina experiment will be watched with interest and might be followed with profit by other states in the Union.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
NEWS

MAR 9 - 1936

Report of Progress.

Despite 20 lynchings in the South last year, there is solid ground for the hope that the evil thing can be conquered, and, indeed, that it is already far along the road to being conquered. The latest bulletin of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching contains the striking information that, as against the 20 lynched, there were 89 intended victims of mobs who were saved by the prompt and determined action of the police. We doubt that this can be taken as a sign that the fight against the practice is more than four-fifths won. Nevertheless, it is plain that it does represent a great change from the conditions of twenty or even ten years ago. It is axiomatic that the police are barometers of public opinion — or rather of the opinion of the most substantial elements of a community — the so-called "good people" — whose opinion eventually determines what public opinion will be. And if these cops are today exerting themselves to thwart the will of mobs, as a few years ago they hardly ever did, then it argues with great force that the opinion of these key people is in the process of crystallization against mobs.

Another basis for hope and faith also is the very fact that this Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching exists — and not exists alone; it may be said to flourish. It is an immensely forthright and intellectually honest organization, which goes straight to the root of the matter and directs its fire at the myth that the lyncher is a Lancelot or a Blease whose activities are necessary for the protection of the white woman in the South, which proves with cold facts and figures that he is only a murderous brute who deserves nothing but a seat in the hot chair. We can cure the thing — we are slowly curing it. But let us take care not to be too complacent about it. The fight is not won yet. There were 20 lynchings last year, one of them in North Carolina.

The Court's Job

C

The case of Walter Miller, confessed slayer of Miss Vivian Woodward, of Huntsville, went before a special session of the Madison County Grand Jury Thursday. A quick trial may be expected, as *The Huntsville Times* suggests.

Age-Herald

Emphasizing the fact that the case has always been one for the courts and not for the mob, the Huntsville paper sensibly adds:

4-11-36

> While there is still high feeling and indignation, there is no reason for citizens to take a hand in the matter.
>
> Let the courts handle the case. They can be depended upon to do justice, and if the prisoner is guilty, to mete out the extreme penalty.
>
> We want no repetition of some of the scenes and actions that have accompanied some trials of this nature in the past.
>
> The members of the police department of Huntsville have been vigilant, alert and active in catching the suspect, even though he fled to another state, and his trail was difficult to follow.
>
> Leave it to the courts to do their share now, without molestation or interference.

Birmingham Ala.

There is no reason to believe that the courts cannot handle the case in a fair and intelligent manner. The officers of the law have already done their important share of the work for which they are to be duly commended.

This case affords an excellent opportunity for Alabama to advertis to the rest of the nation that she ca handle even so provocative a case a this with prompt and legal justice.

Lynchings-1936
Discussion.

White Press, Southern.

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NORMAN, OKLA.
TRANSCRIPT

MAR 16 1936

THE MOB STILL RIDES

THE Commission on Interracial Co-operation, following a careful study of lynchings in the United States over a five-year period, finds that 34 of the 84 persons lynched in that period were either unaccused of crime or charged with only minor offenses.

Only one-fourth of the victims were accused of actual or attempted assaults upon women, commonly regarded as the chief cause of lynchings. The commission found further that officers sometimes connive at lynchings or even participate in them, that courts rarely indict lynchers and more rarely convict, and mobs sometimes so dominate courts that "legal lynchings" actually result.

Though the number of lynchings has declined from a yearly average of 124 at the beginning of this century to an average of 17 for the last 10 years, the study of the commission reveals that the mob spirit still prevails in many portions of the country, particularly the South. It has been vented against white persons in many instances. Last fall, for example, 300 citizens of Santa Rosa, Calif., tarred, feathered, and "beat up" five persons alleged to be Communists. The victims also were compelled to walk through the streets of the town, followed by many automobiles whose occupants honked horns and yelled and jeered at them. Outbreaks of other kinds have occurred elsewhere.

Any lynching or any other incident where mob spirit prevails should cause this nation to hide its head in shame. There is no federal lynch law in the United States. Congress continues to procrastinate on that subject. Yet morally, if not legally, members of mobs who lend themselves to hysteria and brutality forfeit their heritage of Americanism. In a White House proclamation on July 26, 1918, President Wilson declaired:

> I say plaintly that every American who takes part in the action of a mob or gives it any sort of countenance is no true son of this democracy, but its betrayer.

The laws of America are adequate to reach any lawbreaker. But their application is too often blocked by judicial red tape, political bosses, and crooked lawyers. Not one of these obstacles endures except through the apathy of the voters. The lack of initiative and intelligent action to solve these problems, however, can never be compensated for by mob violence, which is always chiefly a miserable compound of ignorance, hysteria, and primitive passion let loose.

The Commission on Interracial Co-operation recommends more adequate police protection, stronger jails, changes of venue in the trials of persons threatened by mob violence and members of mobs, as remedial steps. They will do some good, but in addition there must be aroused a stronger public opinion, a nationwide determination that cowardice, hysteria, and passion shall no longer ride roughshod over the law.

SUFFOLK, VA.
NEWS-HERALD

MAR 16 1936

THE MOB RIDES AGAIN

The had a hard time to find him after a mob took a cringing Negro prisoner from a faint-hearted sheriff in a little Georgia community. But the first report of the incident, common almost as legal hangings in the state of Eugene Talmadge, guessed accurately what had happened to the hapless black man. Later Saturday came confirmation of the reporter's suspicions.

"A rope drawn tightly about his neck and several gunshot wounds in his head and neck, the body of Phillip Baker, 32-year-old Negro taken from officers by a mob last night, was found in a swamp near here (Gusseta) today —victim of a lynching. The Negro was ACCUSED of attacking two white women and a Negro woman . . ." That's all and graphically told.

One needs only ordinary imagination to be able to picture the scene from the moment the officer of the law surrendered the man he had sworn to protect with his life, if necessary, to the mobsters until they had satisfied their thirst for gore. Brave sheriff; brave Georgians; noble compatriots of a governor who is today defying the authority of his own courts.

It meant nothing to these executioners that this ignorant and probably half-imbecile black man had never been given a trial in any court on the charge for which he was arrested. The fact that he was merely accused of having committed a heinous crime —held by the law on suspicion of guilt—was lost on these white renegades of the "superior race."

Another crimson mark is laid across the fair name of Georgia. It is painful to compare the Georgia of today with its degenerate whites staining its escutcheon with the blood of black degenerates with the glory and chivalry of the men who fought and died for the weak and lowly of God's creation.

The verdict of the jury, submitted today or tomorrow, is anticipated. After a mock trial and hypocritical pondering the evidence, the verdict will probably be in effect that one Phillip Baker, Negro, car [illegible] his death at the hands of parties unk[illegible]

With a sly wink, the c[illegible]eriff will turn to his bloody brew while another mob is already preparing for its next ride with death. And so we are from finer clay; from the mould of the noble, justice-loving Anglo-Saxon? What an insult to our ancestry; what a gross betrayal of our justice-loving race who proudly gave their lives in defense of the weak when chivalry and courage were in flower!

DANVILLE, VA.
REGISTER

MAR 14 1936

THE ECONOMICS OF LYNCHING

The crime of lynching, which is a phenomena of civilization in the deep South of America, has been discussed from almost every angle except that of economics. In its five-year study of lynching, "The Mob Still Rides," which has just been published, the Southern Commission on Interracial Cooperation shows the distribution by economic areas in the states in which lynchings occurred in 1935. To quote from this excellent study:

> It has become common knowledge that lynchings occur most frequently in the most rural and poorest communities in the South. The single city lynching at Tampa, Florida, was not representative. In the seventy counties where occurred the eighty-four lynchings of the last five years, the only cities appearing are Vicksburg, Jackson, Birmingham, Tampa, St. Joseph and San Jose. . . . Specific measures show that most of these seventy counties are economically below the average of their respective states. The per capita value of products from farm and factory combined was below the state average of four-fifths of the counties, and in nearly four-fifths of them the per capita value of taxable property was below the state's average. The per capita bank depsosits and revenue receipts were below the state average in nine-tenths of the counties, and the per capita retail trade in four-fifths.

That the poor whites and the low grade whites are the lynchers is common knowledge, but by showing the distribution of responsibility in this precise way the Commission on Interracial Cooperation has done something constructive that has required long and patient research but which presents the whole subject in a more distinctly hopeful light. It is something, at least, to know that the backward state as a whole is not quite as likely to lynchings as its most backward counties. This means, we take it, that a very slight improvement in the economic condition of the counties in the United States on a par with the seventy guilty counties of 1935, may result in a marked decline in lynching.

What is required is not a thriving culture among people who could not produce it within the span of generations if millions were poured into their county treasuries for distribution, but just a few more schools, a few more roads and a few more county agents. It is possible that we have dealt too much on such questions as the sadism of lynching, the horrible participation of the community in high crimes that have often been imagined rather than committed, and the fundamental anarchy of the crime; too little on what State government has failed to do to prevent overthrow by the mob—the practical things it could do with very limited means.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
March 27, 1936

The South and Lynchings

Dr. James E. Shepard, president of the North Carolina College for Negroes, at Durham, takes a sound view of the lynching problem in the South and suggests the most plausible solution of it. In a letter addressed to the governors of Southern states he wrote:

"I deplore crime. I stand fully for the majesty of the law. Crime should be punished to the fullest extent of the law, whether committed by a negro or any other man. The courts should, in every way, be supreme. The courts are in every way dominated and controlled by members of the white race. With this fact as a premise, there can never be any excuse for lynching.

"We desire that our own neighbors and friends enforce the law, and if our Southern governors will take a stand against lynching and protect prisoners at any cost, this dreadful evil will soon be eradicated from American life and there will be no need of a federal anti-lynching law on the statute books."

Dr. Shepard takes issue with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and with those leaders at Washington who declared for a national anti-lynching law. At the same time he issues a challenge to the white people of the South and especially to all in authority which, if accepted, will as he says make a federal law unnecessary.

The courts of the South should decide the guilt or innocence of all men accused of crime. It is not for the mob to decide and it is not for the mob to pretend to administer justice. The prevalence of lynch law in Southern states is a disgrace to their citizenship. When all officials, whose duty it is to enforce the law and protect those accused of crime until the courts have acted upon their cases, live up to the full provisions of the oath they take upon assuming office, lynching will disappear from the South.

Miami, Fla., News
March 16, 1936

"The Mob Still Rides"

From the Commission on Inter-racial Co-operation at Atlanta the mail brings a pamphlet, "The Mob Still Rides," a review of the lynching record from 1931 to 1935. And by wire, within an hour, comes the story from Chattahoochee county, Georgia, of another mob wresting a young negro prisoner from the sheriff and hanging him.

It is a typical case, in that the victim was a negro, the lynchers were white, and it took place in the rural South. If [illegible] continues to run true to form, no one [illegible]. The victim in this case was accused of a serious crime, an assault on a white woman. That is rarer than many believe, as charges of rape have figured in less than one-sixth of the 3,798 recorded lynchings since 1889, and attempted rape was charged in less than one-fourth of these cases. But, regardless of the charge, the prisoner was to have been tried in a few days and Southern juries are not noted for leniency toward negroes.

It would be pleasing to record that the South and racial prejudice are blamed too frequently for lynchings, but the record is against us. "A larger proportion of the lynchings (during the last five years) occurred in the South than ever before and a larger proportion of the victims were negroes," the commission finds.

Indictments have been returned in an average of only one out of 12 lynchings and convictions have been gained in scarcely one out of 30 cases. So long we wink at mob vengeance, the mobs will continue to ride.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
March 18, 1936

Lynching Statistics

The Commission on Interracial Cooperation, headquarters in Atlanta, has issued a booklet, "The Mob Still Rides," which is a review of the lynchings in the United States in 1931-1935. The statistics compiled by the commission are not encouraging and especially to the people of the South.

The commission finds that during the five-year period to which its report relates there were 87 lynchings and that 41 per cent of the persons lynched were either unaccused of crime or else were charged with minor offenses. A summary of the findings of the commission follows:

(1) A larger proportion of the lynchings of this period occurred in the South than ever before, and a larger proportion of the victims were negroes.

(2) Eleven per cent of the mob victims were not accused of any crime; an additional thirty per cent were accused only of minor offenses. Of the other fifty-nine per cent, many were not guilty of the crimes with which they were charged.

(3) Contrray to the general impression that rape is the chief cause of lynching, only eleven per cent of the victims were even accused of this crime. Scarcely one-fourth were accused of rape and attempted rape combined.

(4) Courts rarely indict lynchers, more rarely convict, and almost never impose sentences commensurate with the crime. Indictments have been returned in but one lynching in twelve, and convictions in scarcely one in thirty.

(5) There is evidence that peace officers participated in several lynchings, and connived at many more.

(6) Over nine-tenths of the lynchings occurred in the open country, and a little over four-fifths in counties where the per capita income and taxable wealth were below those of their respective states. Over three-fourths of the threatened lynchings prevented were also in the poorer rural counties.

(7) When a mob does not lynch it sometimes dominates the court, and so brings about a "legal lynching."

(8) Nearly twenty per cent of the persons lynched and threatened by mobs were mental defectives.

(9) The number of lynchings declined from a yearly average of 124 between 1895 and 1905, to seventy between 1905 and 1915, to fifty-three between 1915 and 1925, and to seventeen between 1925 and 1935. The past decade, however, shows more lynchings in the latter half than in the first half—the only decade in which this was true. The number of attempted lynchings also rose during the latter half of the decade.

The optimism of ten years ago is waning; lynchings are not fading naturally from the American scene; the mob still rides.

Inasmuch as the majority of the 84 lynchings enumerated in the report took place in southern states the facts are all the more unpleasant for southerners to consider. The report is accurate and was compiled by an organization that has the respect of the people of both races. Its sole purpose is to promote better relations between the races and to do all in its power to stop the fiendish crime of lynching which is a disgrace to every community in which it occurs.

The facts brought to light by the commission show that many innocent men have been murdered by mobs. Mob law is foe of justice. It shames the community in which it is permitted to lift its head. Even though its victims in some cases were guilty they were not more guilty of crime than every member of the cowardly mob that took their lives without giving them an opportunity to appear before a jury and be given a legal trial.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK
DEMOCRAT

MAR 29 1936

Inter-Racial Comments

By REV. GEORGE G. WALKER
Pastor of St. Philip's Episcopal Church.

According to a report just issued by the Commission on Inter-Racial Co-operation, Atlanta, summarizing the results of a careful study of all lynchings during the last five years, 41 per cent of the 84 persons lynched were either unaccused of crimes or else were charged only with minor offenses. This report appears as a 24-page pamphlet entitled "The Mob Still Rides," and cites numerous illustrative cases. This report further states that of the other 59 per cent of mob victims, many were innocent of the crimes with which they were charged. Only one-fourth of the victims were accused of actual or attempted assaults upon white women, and in a number of these cases the commission's investigators could find no convincing evidence of guilt. The report also states that "officers sometimes connive at lynchings or even participate in them; courts rarely indict lynchers, and more rarely convict, and mobs sometimes so dominate the courts as to bring about "legal lynching." On the other hand, a number of cases are cited in which officers successfully resisted or outwitted mobs. . . . Though the number of lynchings has declined from a yearly average of 124 thirty-five years ago to an average of 17 for the last 10 years, the study reveals that the lynching habit fades more slowly from the South than from other sections of the country, and becomes increasingly a racial phenomenon. . . . Among the remedies suggested by the commission are more nearly adequate police service, stronger jails, change of venue in the trial of lynchers and of persons threatened by mob violence, the lifting of community levels in lynching areas, and the building of a better public opinion.

Lynchings-1936
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

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SANFORD, FLA.
HERALD

MAR 1 7 1936

Lynching Records

Forty-one percent of the eighty-four persons lynched in the last five years were either unaccused of crime or else were charged only with minor offenses, according to a report made public by the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, summarizing the results of a careful study of all the lynchings of that period.

Appearing as a twenty-four page pamphlet, entitle "The Mob Still Rides," and citing numerous illustrative cases, the report states further that of the other fifty-nine percent of mob victims many were innocent of the crimes with which they were charged.

Only one-fourth of the victims were accused of actual or attempted assaults upon women, commonly thought of as the chief cause of lynchings, and in a number of these cases the Commission's investigators could find no convincing evidence of guilt.

Officers sometimes connive at lynchings or even participate in them, courts rarely indict lynchers and more rarely convict, and mobs sometimes so dominate the courts as to bring about "legal lynchings," according to the report. On the other hand, a number of cases are cited in which officers successfully resisted or outwitted mobs.

Though the number of lynchings has declined from a yearly average of 124 thirty-five years ago to an average of seventeen for the last ten years, the study reveals that the lynching habit fades more slowly from the South than from other sections of the country and becomes increasingly a racial phenomenon.

Among the remedies suggested by the report are more adequate police service, stronger jails, change of venue in the trial of lynchers and of persons threatened by mob violence, the lifting of community levels in lynching areas and the building of a better public opinion.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
N E W S

MAR 1 7 1936

A Gain in Time.

Georgia has come forward with the first lynching of 1936. A Negro accused of rape was taken from a sheriff and two deputies while *en route* from one jail to another.

The circumstances do not vary great deal from last year's first lynching. Both involved Negroes, both of whom were taken from the Law. However, there is one encouraging side to it, and that is that this year's lynching came 74 days after its beginning, whereas last year's was done when the year was only 11 days old. Georgia and the rest of the South, which is the only section of the country wherein lynching persists, may derive some comfort from that.

COLUMBIA, S. C.
RECORD

MAR 2 0 1936

THE MOB STILL RIDES.

In the years since 1931 there have been in the United States, which is the home of mob law, 84 lynchings.

Mob violence is not taking care of itself; it isn't disappearing as illiteracy is reduced and educational advantages are being extended and multiplied.

Studying the lynching record for the five years, 1931-1935, the Commission on Interracial Cooperation epitomizes its findings:

"1. A larger proportion of the lynchings of this period occurred in the South than ever before, and a larger proportion of the victims were negroes.

"2. Eleven per cent of the mob victims were not accused of any crime; an additional 30 per cent were accused on only minor offenses. Of the other 59 per cent, many were not guilty of the crimes with which they were charged.

"3. Contrary to the general impression that rape is the chief cause of lynching, only 11 per cent of the victims were even accused of this crime. Scarcely one-fourth were accused of rape and attempted rape combined.

"4. Courts rarely indict lynchers, more rarely convict, and almost never impose sentences commensurate with the crime. Indictments have been returned in but one lynching in 12, and convictions scarcely one in 30.

"5. There is evidence that peace officers participated in several lynchings, and connived at many more.

"6. Over nine-tenths of the lynchings occured in the open country, and a little over four-fifths in counties where the per capita income and taxable wealth were below those of their respective states. Over three-fourths of the threatened lynchings prevented were also in the poorer rural counties.

"7. When a mob does not lynch it sometimes dominates the court, and so brings about a 'legal' lynching.

"8. Nearly 20 per cent of the persons lynched and threatened by mobs were mental defectives.

"9. The number of lynchings declined from a yearly average of 124 between 1895 and 1905 to 70 between 1905 and 1915, to 53 between 1915 and 1925, and to 17 between 1825 and 1935. The past decade, however, shows more lynchings in the latter half than in the first half—the only decade in which this was true. The number of attempted lynchings also rose in the latter half of the decade.

"The optimism of ten years ago is waning; lynchings are not fading naturally from the American scene; the mob still rides."

Here is food for thought for those South Carolinians who are concerned that lynchings shall be eliminated from South Carolina; there was no South Carolina lynching among the 20 in 1935. Here is the demonstration of the fact that lynching is not a substitute for law enforcement; more often than not the lynchers get the wrong man. Here is evidence of the important role played by peace officers in the prevention of lynchings and testimony to the voters' responsibility that in electing peace officers they shall choose able, honest, courageous men who may not be fooled by mobs nor frightened by them. And crime statistics will show that lynching is no preventive of crime. Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, which are the leading lynching states, are not distinguished for their observance of law. And there is the incidental conclusion to be drawn from the record that gubernatorial dictatorships seem to encourage rather than discourage lynchings, which is, of course, what would be expected since dictatorships are a denial of due processes of law.

But more important the study suggests also the remedy—the prompt and adequate punishment of the lynchers. No lyncher fears arrest and trial. Many of the members of mobs do not take the trouble to disguise themselves; they know that the coroner's verdict will be death at the hands of "parties unknown." They never expect a sheriff, even when he meets them face to face, to recognize them, nor the juries, drawn from the number of their friends and relatives, to convict them.

The abolition of lynching is therefore a local problem, the problem of building up in the lynching counties—there are two counties, one in Florida and one in Mississippi, in which ten persons have been lynched since 1930; two, one in Georgia and one in Mississippi, in which four lynchings have occurred; six, two in Mississippi, one each in Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina and Texas, in which three lynchings have taken place—a recognition of the futility of lynching and of the high cost of it in undermining all law enforcement. This isn't simple and it cannot be accomplished by the easy device of passing a law. But it must be attempted.

"Local civilization has broken down when a mob forms," the interracial commission declares its conclusion; "and there is no simple substitute for local civilization."

KINGSPORT, TENN.
TIMES

MAR 18 1936

THE "LOW-DOWN" ON LYNCHINGS

A study of the 84 lynchings of the past five years in the United States, made by the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, reveals the rather astonishing fact that 11 per cent were accused only of minor offenses. Moreover, there was strong reason to believe that of the remaining 59 per cent a large number were not guilty of the crimes with which they were charged.

While it is generally presumed that actual or attempted assaults upon women are the chief cause of lynchings, the report of the commission shows that only one-fourth of the victims were accused of these crimes.

The study also brings to light the astounding fact that many of these victims of mob violence were lynched for the most trivial things. For instance, in our own state of Tennessee a negro was lynched for slapping a white woman who was drinking beer in a negro store. We hardly see why any one should concern himself greatly over a white woman who would drink beer in a negro store.

In another case a negro was lynched for associating with a white woman. Incidentally the white woman was not lynched.

Down in Georgia an unaccused and innocent negro was lynched by a mob which was in his home looking for another negro who had killed a white man. Also in Georgia, a negro killed a white bootlegger at a negro dance, and when the one guilty of the killing could not be identified, two perfectly innocent negroes were lynched as "object lessons." In Aiken county, S. C., a negro was lynched for stealing liquor from white bootleggers. In Coffee county, Tenn., a negro was lynched for striking a white man, and another was lynched in Perry county, Ky., for wounding a white man in an altercation. In North Carolina a negro was lynched for slightly wounding, by accident, the wife of a white bootlegger with whom he was quarreling over a liquor purchase.

Unfortunately the courts very rarely indict and almost never convict those guilty of lynching. Statistics show that during the [illegible] five years convictions have been secured in barely one lynching in 30, and indictments have been returned in only one case in 12.

This statistical evidence presents a rather damning case against justice in the United States in so far as mob violence is concerned. But we did not need such statistics to convince us that lynching is a blight on our civilization. It is lawless, brutal, cruel, and barbarous. We know all of this. The states, under state law and with state officials, should do all in their power to eliminate it.

But that is not all that should be done. One of the principal reasons for lynching is the laxity of our laws, our legal red tape, and the fact that adequate punishment is rarely meted out to those guilty of the major crimes. If we were to hasten punishment in cases of murder and criminal assault; if we would give the death sentence in such cases; if we would take away the pardoning power from governors, and eliminate about two-thirds of the legal red tape that places all of the advantage in the hands of the defendant, we would not have nearly so many cases of lynchings. Moreover, the activities of certain northern individuals and leagues in interfering with southern justice is having a tendency to increase rather than curtail the number of lynchings in the south.

Anniston, Ala. Star
April 1, 1936

Punishing Lynche

Officers of Huntsville and Madisoi
to be commended on their effective wo
ing a mob and preventing the lynching of
Negroes this week. Commendation should also be given Governor Graves for his prompt action in ordering state highway patrolmen to Huntsville to assist the city and county officers in fighting off the mob and for sending troops of the National Guard to the scene to take charge in the event the situation became too difficult for the peace officers to handle.

The crime of which the Negroes are suspected is one of the most brutal and horrible recorded in Alabama in sometime, but mob punishment is not to be tolerated in any circumstances, and every citizen concerned with the good name of Alabama will rejoice because of the courageous action of the authorities which kept a blot from being placed on the state record. Moreover, had the angry crowd been permitted to carry out its purpose it is likely that one or more innocent men would have been victims, in addition to the crime of lynch law inflicted on those that might be guilty.

Investigations of lynchings have revealed that 30 per cent of those killed by mobs in recent years were accused of minor offenses, while an additianal 11 per cent were accused of no crime at all. These studies also indicate that mob violence is no longer on the decline, as appeared to be the case a few years ago, and it is, therefore, encouraging to find Alabama officers risking their lives to save those threatened with lynching.

This case gives further proof that lynchings often can be prevented by prompt and determined work on the part of those in authority. And in this connection it also would be well to mention the fact that vigorous and fearless application of the force of the law in the punishment of lynchers can also be made a forceful deterrent in dealing with such crimes. Furthermore, we should not overlook the record of Alabama in this respect in recent years, for in that may be found concrete evidence of what can be accomplished in the way of obtaining convictions at trials when the authorities, particularly the chief executive of the state are willing to prosecute suspected lynchers without fear or favor.

During the 30-year period from 1900 to 1930, other states convicted 33 defendants charged with taking part in lynchings, while in two years of Governor Kilby's administration 34 were found guilty in Alabama. In the entire period of 30 years, 37 lynchers were convicted in Alabama against 33 for all other states, which reveals a very creditable record for this state. But the striking fact in regard to Alabama's record is that 34 of the 37 lynching convictions obtained in the state in three decades were returned during the Kilby administration.

These facts are revealed in a report of Dr. Arthur F. Raper, research and field secretary of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, contained in a booklet entitled "The Mob Still Rides." This report gives a clear and comprehensive summary of the lynching record of the country and presents the problem in a manner calculated to impress thoughtful citizens interested in the elimination of crimes of this nature, but it seems that through oversight or otherwise an injustice has been done Alabama and Governor Kilby in that no mention is made of the convictions in this state and especially those obtained in the Kilby administration.

Nothing is said to call attention to a case in which the duty of the state and its chief authority has been discharged. Not one word is given in praise of the single state in which apparently a real effort was made during one administration to convict and punish lynchers—not even a word in recognition of this noteworthy achievement.

On the other hand, under sub headings "Lynchers Seldom Punished" and "Why Lynchers Go Unpunished," numerous examples are given to illustrate the lack of willingness or ability on the part of law enforcement officers and juries to punish lynchers, with the conclusion that the figures show "only a few convictions and sentences seldom commensurate with the crime."

The record of the Kilby administration, however, will stand to his credit in history in this as in all his other accomplishments while serving the state as Governor. As the years pass, the Kilby administration looms larger and will loom still larger in the future as his record passes further into history.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama.

5313

SEEK WITHDRAWAL OF LEIBOWITZ, KNIGHT IN SCOTTSBORO CASE

Journal and Guide
1-18-36

Special to Journal and Guide

DECATUR, Ala. — The withdrawal of both Samuel Liebowitz as chief defense counsel and Tom Knight, lieutenant-governor of Alabama, as special prosecutor, as being conducive to the best interests of the defendants in the case, as advocated as the latest development in the celebrated Scottsboro cases.

Journal Guide

Trial of two of the defendants on charges of criminal assault upon a white woman is expected to get under way in the Morgan County Circuit Court here Monday, despite the fact that a motion for a change of venue was scheduled to be argued Thursday of this week (January 10) before Judge W. W. Callahan.

The Morgan County jurist last week denied a defense motion for a change of venue to the Federal District court in Birmingham and it was expected that the new motion would also be denied.

Date for the trial of Heywood Patterson, who has thrice occupied the death house at the Alabama State Penitentiary following his conviction of the charge, was set by Judge Callahan for January 20, and that of Clarence Norris for January 28.

Dates for the trial were set Wednesday and published exclusively in the Journal and Guide of Norfolk, Va. Norris has been convicted twice and sentenced to die.

Convictions Reversed

Both cases were appealed to the United States Supreme Court and the decisons reversed on the grounds that Negroes had been "systematically excluded" from jury service in Alabama.

NEGRO ON GRAND JURY

The last grand jury which indicted the two boys, however, had a Negro on its rolls.

Typical of the sentiment prevalent in the southern press as regards the defense staff is the comment of John Temple Graves 2d., editor of the Birmingham News-Herald, and one of the most noted of the southern writers. Writing in the New York Times of January 10, Mr. Graves has this to say:

"In the opinion of a number of Alabamans who have devoted time and energy to eliminate prejudices, the retention of Samuel Leibowitz for the defense, and of Lieutenant Governor Tom Knight for the prosecution, and the prominence of Socialist and Communist groups on the new Scottsboro Defense Committee, will make inevitable every one of the emotional interferences which it is hoped to avoid.

GRAVES' POSITION

"To race prejudice they believe will be added prejudices against Communists, against outsiders, against Jews, against Leibowitz personally for his never-to-be-forgotten description of Alabama jurors, against Knight for his suspected ambition to win the Governorship with new death sentences. These Alabamans are convinced that the only hope of a truly fair trial lay in their plan to have both Leibowitz and Knight withdraw and to entrust the defense wholly to Southern attorneys under Southern chaperonage.

DEFENDANTS SUSPICIOUS

"The national organizations interested in the case quite naturally have been suspicious of this plan offered by Southerners, and particuuarly of the demand for withdrawal of so well advertised an attorney as Leibowitz. The Negro defendants have been equally suspicious, refusing to credit a suggestion that the sorriest shyster, if he were a local man, could do more for them now than all the genius with which Leibowitz is credited and that 10 cents worth of local tolerance and goodwill might be worth more than $15,000 in a defense fund."

USING SOUTHERN MAN

Active participation by Southern lawyers and laymen in the defense of the nine Scottsboro boys has been announced by the Scottsboro Defense Committee with headquarters at 112 East 19th Street, New York City. To counteract criticism of "northern interference," the five national organizations composing the defense committee have enlisted the cooperation of southerners known to be convinced of the innocence of the boys on the basis of the opinion rendered by Judge James E Horton of Alabama in granting a new trial to one of them two years ago.

C. L. Watts of the firm of Watts and White of Huntsville, Ala. was announced as a southern lawyer retained to serve jointly with Samuel S. Leibowitz of New York, retained by the boys and their relatives, and with George W. Chamlee of Chattanooga, former county solocitor general.

Vice-chairmen of the defense committee announced were Dean Elbert Russell of Duke University, Durham, N. C.; Rt. Rev. William Scarlett, Episcopal bishop of St. Louis, Missouri, and Prof. Jas. Weldon Johnson of Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn.

SPONSORS OF COMMITTEE

Among sponsors of the committee already enlisted are the National Urban League and many individuals, among them, Rt. Rev. K. G. Findlay, Episcopal bihsop of S. C.; Mary E. Woolley, president of Mt. Holyoke College; Rev. Harry Emerson Fosdick, of Riverside Church, New York City; Dr. W. E. B. DuBois of Atlanta University; Rev. Charles Clayton Morrison, editor, Christian Century; Rev. Hubert C. Herring, executive director of the Congregational Education Society; Rt. Rev. Charles K. Gilbert, Suffragan Bishop of Episcopal Church, New York City.

Charges by Birmingham police that the approaching Scottsboro trials are accountable for renewed Communist activities in the Birmingham district were characterized by Dr. Chalmers, chairman of the committee as "wholly baseless." Dr. Chalmers pointed out that under the agreement constituting the defense committee the actiivties of all the participating organizations in the case are under control of the committee and that "no political propaganda would be tolerated in connection with it."

POLICE OFFICIALS CHALLENGED

He dismissed the charges as "just another attempt of the forces behind the prosecution to raise red scare to prejudice the defense." He challenged the police officials of Birmingham "to produce a single item of evidence in substantiation of those charges," stating, "we know how commonly the police pin the red label on any labor organizer or political progressive, and the Birmingham police are well-known for those tactics."

The chairman of the defense committee is Rev. Allan Knight Chalmers of the Broadway Tabernacle, New York City, and the treasurer, Col. Wm. Jay Schieffelin, president of the Citizens Union of New York, chairman of the board of trustees of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, and a member of the board of trustees of Hampton Institute, Virginia. The organizations backing the defense are: American Civil Liberties Union, International Labor Defense, League for Industrial Democracy, Methodist Federation of Social Service, National Association for Advancement of Colored People, Church League for Industrial Democracy (Episcopal).

SCOTTSBORO CHANGE OF VENUE STUDIED

Advertiser

Decatur Judge Reserves Decision Until Monday. Or Date Of Trial

1-17-36

DECATUR, ALA., Jan. 16.—(AP)—Decision on a motion for a change of venue in the "Scottsboro case" was reserved by Judge W. W. Callahan in Morgan Circuit Court today until Monday, when the nine negro defendants will be present in court.

Judge Callahan left the motion open for oral testimony in case the defense wishes to offer it, by reserving decision until the date of the trial of Heywood Patterson, first of seven negroes arraigned last week to face a jury.

Montgomery, Ala.

Alabama statutes provide for only one change of venue and in this case, a change was granted from Jackson County in Mach, 1933, and it was doubtful whether Judge Callahan could grant another if he wished to do so.

The defense alleged in documentary evidence that a fair trial could not be obtained here due to fixed opinions and entrance of "politics" into the trials.

In a lengthy petition, supplemented today by court records in the first trials at Scottsboro nearly five years ago and the minutes of the court in regard to the selection of a jury to try Clarence Norris here in December, 1933, defense counsel alleged that prejudice prevailed and feeling existed against the defendants.

Rebutting this, the State through Lieut. Gov. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., special prosecutor, and Solicitor Melvin Hutson, of this district, today filed with the clerk of the court approximately seventy-five affidavits from citizens of the county declaring a fair trial could be obtained.

The State affidavits included one from A. W. "Bud" Davis, sheriff at the time of the former trials, and E. R. Britnell bailiff on former juries, denying assertions of John Hackworth, of Huntsville, that they told him a fair trial could not be obtained.

Judge Callahan left the way open for the defense to supplement evidence already submitted on Monday, Jan. 20, when Patterson's fourth trial is set.

The negroes are under indictments charging them with attacking Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates on a freight train in Jackson County, March 25, 1931.

The court session today was almost informal with less than a score of spectators in the courtroom, and not a single law enforcement officer.

Nine Negroes Ask Change Of Venue

Advertiser

DECATUR, ALA., Jan. 13.—(AP)—Another move for a change of venue for the trials of nine negroes in the "Scottsboro" case was made today as attorneys filed petitions for a change of venue from Morgan to Jefferson "or such other county as may be just and proper."

Judge W. W. Callahan last week set the motions for argument Thursday, but defense counsel asked a delay until Jan. 20, when Heywood Patterson, thrice convicted, is scheduled to go to trial.

Patterson and six other defendants were arraigned last Monday, while the indictments on the other two were passed because they were juveniles when arrested at Paint Rock, Ala., on March 25, 1931.

1-14-36

The negroes are charged with attacking Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates on a freight train in Jackson County, March 24, 1931.

Montgomery, Ala.

The motion for a change of venue alleges feeling is such against the negroes here that they cannot obtain a fair trial, and is supported by affidavits signed by Capt. R. A. Burleson, of Lacey Springs, and John A. Hackworth, of Huntsville, an investigator.

The affidavits are practically the same as those appended to a motion for a change of venue to Federal Court which Judge Callahan denied last week.

In Montgomery, Lieut. Gov. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., special prosecutor who as attorney general conducted the State's case in the previous trials, said he would oppose any change of venue from Morgan County.

Alabama law provides for only one change of venue, attorneys said last week, during discussion of the case.

Daily Worker

New York, N.Y.

1-21-36

Court Refuses Shift In Scottsboro Trial

Defense Motion, Citing Lynch Spirit, Denied as Trial Opens—Knight's Prosecuting Role Challenged—Selection of Jury Is Begun

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 20 (UP).—Judge C. C. Callahan overruled a defense motion for change of venue in the Scottsboro assault cases.

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 20.—The fourth series of trials in the Scottsboro cases opened here today with Judge C. C. (Speed) Callahan displaying the same arbitrary manner that marked his behavior at previous trial of the Negro boys. Haywood Patterson is the first to face the court.

Court opened at 1 P.M. with the presentation of fourteen affidavits by Melvin Hutson, Morgan County prosecutor, in answer to the affidavits filed a week ago by the defense on the motion for a change of venue.

These were intended to show that no prejudice against the Negro defendants existed in Morgan County.

Callahan took the affidavits under advisement, then proceeded to a long analysis of them, most of the fifty defense affidavits he dismissed as worthless, but referred to the affidavit of Captain R. A. Burleson, who was in charge of the National Guard unit at the March, 1933, trial here, as "unassailable." Captain Burleson referred to a "cold and deliberate crystallization of resentment against the defendants" in Morgan County, as evidence of the impossibility of securing a fair trial here for them.

The affidavit of J. A. Hackworth of Huntsville, submitted in the motion for a change of venue, said:

"Mr. A. W. Davis, a resident of Falkville, Morgan County, Alabama, who was sheriff at the time of the former trials of these cases in said county, and at present a farmer, stated that he knew the sentiment of the people of Morgan County toward these defendants and that it was bitter and hostile, and that the people of said county had made up their minds that the defendants were guilty and that the defendants could not secure a fair and impartial trial in said county:

"That Judge Horton, formerly Circuit judge, had been defeated for re-election because of his action in setting aside verdict of conviction in one of these cases tried by him, and that these cases would continue to be a political issue in said county. Mr. Davis said that he might want to get back into politics, and knew what had happened to Judge Horton, and would sign no written statement of what he said verbally in regard to these matters."

Daily Worker

Others mentioned in Hackworth's affidavit were M. C. Campbell, of Decatur, a car inspector for the Southern Railway Company; Ben Poole, Decatur gas and oil merchant; Phil Humphrey, an automobile man; W. M. Simmons, former Decatur policeman, and R. R. Brigell, former deputy sheriff. All agreed in talking with Hackworth—that it was impossible to find a jury in Morgan County which would not convict the boys in spite of the evidence.

But every one also, Mr. Hackworth's affidavit said, refused to make a written statement on the question, each of them pleading "business reasons" as an excuse for their refusal.

Motion Dismissed

Judge Callahan dismissed the motion with a statement that the evidence was insufficient to warrant a change of venue. Slippery, ice-covered roads had held up the sheriff's car bringing the defendants up from Birmingham, and at 12 o'clock, after a three-and-a-half hour wait Judge W. W. Callahan ordered a recess until 1 P.M.

The seven boys who have been arraigned came in under escort of Sheriff J. Street Sandlin and four uniformed state policemen.

They were handcuffed in pairs, with a deputy alongside each pair.

Roy Wright and Eugene Williams, juveniles at the time of the arrest, have not been arraigned and were not brought into court. The other seven boys were arraigned only on the indictments charging rape of Victoria Price. Separate indictments charged them with rape of Ruby Bates, but they have not been arraigned on these.

The court was well filled as the trial opened. About fifty Negroes were among the spectators. Among these were twelve who have been called on the venire of 100 talesmen from among whom the jury to try Haywood Patterson will be drawn.

At the defense table, in front of the seven boys, sat Attorney Clarence P. Watts of Huntsville, Ala., who, it is understood, will take a leading part throughout the trial, and Samuel S. Leibowitz of New York, attorney at both previous trials in Decatur. Both attorneys were retained by the Scottsboro Defense Committee.

Knight Challenged

Mr. Watts rose and asked that Knight rise to state under what authority he was prosecuting.

Callahan asked Watts to state his reason. Knight fidgeted and rose to speak, but was silenced by the court.

Watts charged that under the Alabama Constitution it was not permissible for an officer of the State to hold two offices. Knight is both Lieutenant Governor and Special Prosecutor retained by the State.

Callahan Rules for Knight

Callahan summarily ruled that as prosecutor Knight was an officer of the Court and not of the State, and the trial went on.

On the prosecution side sat Lieutenant Governor Thomas E. Knight of Alabama, Special Deputy Attorney General assigned to the prosecution of this case; Solicitor H. G. Bailey of Boaz, Alabama, the original prosecutor of the Scottsboro boys in their 1931 trial, and Melvin Hutson, Morgan County prosecutor.

Defense counsel informed newspaper men that every attorney in Decatur had been approached within the past week by Mr. Watts, to assist in the defense. Every one refused to act in any capacity with defense counsel for the Scottsboro boys under any conditions.

The contention of the defense, if sustained in the higher courts would automatically cause the chair of the Lieutenant Governor to be declared vacant; nullify the indictments against the Scottsboro boys obtained by Knight, and void all laws signed by him as presiding officer of the Alabama Senate.

As the prosecution witnesses were called off, C. L. Watts rose and demanded the time to get certified transcript of the record of the trial of Orville Gilley, State's star witness, who is being brought here from Tennessee, where he is serving a prison term for robbery.

Judge Callahan said he was inclined to give them that privilege but "chances were" when the time came to call Gilley he would rule that the defense had plenty of time. It is expected that Gilley will be called to the stand tomorrow. It would be impossible to obtain a certified transcript from Cooksville, Tenn., in that time.

Jury Selection Begun

As the selection of the jury began at two o'clock, the defendants were handcuffed and led out of the courtroom to the jail again.

Thirty-five talesmen, among them five Negroes, were called and sworn.

In questioning the first twelve veniremen to be drawn, Judge Callahan stressed that prejudice against Negroes, or conviction of their inferiority was not sufficient to excuse a juryman in the trial, unless he felt it to be so great that it would be impossible for him to give fair trial on that account.

During this questioning Haywood Patterson was brought back into court and sat directly behind Attorneys Watts and Leibowitz. Watts questioned the jurors for the defense. Callahan refused to permit challenge for cause of a venireman who stated under questioning by Watts that he had been summoned as a juryman in a previous trial, but had not served, that he had heard a part of the evidence and had received an impression unfavorable to Haywood Patterson.

[redacted]

Scottsboro Again

Speaking of the most recent difficulty arising out of the Scottsboro case, in which one of the defendants was shot in the head and an officer of the law slightly wounded, the Birmingham Age Herald wisely notes that it might easily have been worse. Considering pent up emotions involved, it would hardly have been surprising if, when one of the Negroes drew a knife in an attempt to escape, and actually cut the throat of one of his guards, the entire group of defendants had been killed.

"However," says the Birmingham paper, "justice in Alabama should rate a bit higher than before. Officers transporting the defendants demonstrated a fine measure of self-control. Their conduct should be an answer to unjust charges that Southern officers are always quick on the trigger when Negroes accused of rape attempt to escape. If these guards had been only half as bad as some poorly informed persons think, this murderous attack would have resulted in the death of at least the two Negroes directly involved.

"The incident also serves to show the character of the defendants, if rioting in jails and other obstreperousness had not already proved that. While one can urge justice for them, no one in the light of their continued conduct can believe that the Negroes are peaceful, pure-minded boys. This attack, with their previous conduct while in jail, stamps them as reckless and vicious and without regard for law.

"Particularly heinous this attack seems just at this time when the defendants should have had reason to believe that they are making progress in their fight for freedom. The outcome of the fourth Heywood Patterson trial should have convinced all the defendants that their plight was not so desperate as it had been.

"But amid all the discussion about the latest development in this Scottsboro case, there will run a thread of wonder of how the two Negroes came into possession of knives and how officers could permit defendants in any capital case to become armed. It looks like somebody was careless here."

[redacted], N. C., [redacted]

January 23, 1936

The notorious case involving the alleged attack of nine Negro youths on two white women several years ago comes up for another hearing at Decatur, Ala. A defendant who has been twice convicted and sentenced to the electric chair and each time given another trial is the first to be arraigned. The case with its revolting details has given rise to much sectional criticism and prejudice. It is to be hoped that the present hearings will finally dispose of the cases and remove the "thorn in the flesh," so to speak, occasioned by them.

Lynchings - 1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.
6

Alabama

5347

New York Evening Post

JAN 25 1936

ALABAMA MUST ANSWER

The suspicious feature of the new Scottsboro story is that what happened is so patly what some Alabama authorities would have liked to see happen.

The details are so watertight, the story so one-sided, that it is hard to accept it without a large grain of salt, particularly in view of Alabama's abominable record in the Scottsboro cases.

What better to stir up hate against the nine defendants than the slight wounding of a deputy sheriff by "three" of the Negroes and the—critical—wounding of Ozie Powell by the sheriff?

The only detailed story heard so far is the story that came from the police. The defendants have not spoken. All that has come from them is the police-relayed "confession" that they feared being murdered on the ride to Birmingham.

What gave rise to that fear? How did it happen that a prisoner manacled to two others could use a knife? Who saw that knife? Was it used as charged?

These suspicions will not arise in the mind of The Post alone. Similar doubts and worse will occur to all who have followed the four Scottsboro trials, the shameful course of the latest one, the suppression of evidence, the open incitation to race hatred, the refusal of the Court to give the defense a fair chance, and the final seventy-five-year sentence meted out to Haywood Patterson.

Seventy-five years in an Alabama jail for a Negro "convicted" of rape is worse than death. We have Patterson's expressed preference for the gallows to vouch for that.

There is only one course Alabama can take to quiet doubts concerning the latest Scottsboro sensation.

That is immediate creation of an impartial outside commission staffed by men of unquestioned integrity and fair mindedness to take testimony and develop the truth of the attack story and its underlying circumstances. If the story is true Alabama can have no objections.

But it is most important that an impartial inquiry be undertaken now, while the incident is fresh, and before witnesses' memories fade or suffer other injury.

All who are concerned with the right to fair trial and to equal treatment before the law have a stake in discovering the full truth of this latest occurrence.

That they will not, can not, be content with Alabama's official say-so is Alabama's own doing.

SCOTTSBORO "JUSTICE"

WITH ONE SCOTTSBORO BOY already sentenced to 75 years in jail and another shot in the head by a guard for an alleged "escape" attempt, the center of interest once more revolves around Decatur, Ala., where for the fourth time in the last five years nine innocent Negro boys are being tried for their lives on charges of attacking two white girls, one of whom in two previous trials has testified that the boys are innocent of the alleged crime. Further proceedings in the case were suddenly postponed indefinitely on Friday because of the illness of one of the defense witnesses.

Q, 1-3

New York Age

[illegible]

Heywood Patterson, first of the Scottsboro boys to face the jury last week, has been sentenced to 75 years in the penitentiary after another alleged trial during which judge and jury went through the motions of meting out justice. The jury deliberated its findings for eight hours, after two days spent listening to prejudicial remarks from Judge Callahan appeals to racial prejudice from the prosecution and several defense motions for mistrial.

Patterson's conviction, his fourth, aroused some comment in that on the three previous occasions he had been sentenced to death, each sentence being set aside by a higher court upon an appeal. The fact that the jury saw fit to impose a prison sentence this time was cited as a basis for hope that the youths might yet receive justice.

Shortly afterwards, however Ozie Powell, another of the boys, was shot twice in the head by a sheriff who charged that the youth had slashed a deputy in an "escape" attempt. Powell now hovers between life and death in the Hillman Hospital with a bullet wound in the brain. The trial of Clarence Norris which was scheduled to begin immediately after Patterson's was suddenly postponed Friday and it was during the transfer of the boys from Decatur to the Birmingham jail that Powell was shot.

Having consistently maintained from the very first trial strong doubts that the boys could receive even a semblance of justice under existing circumstances, we are prone to see, in the shooting of Powell, a vivid demonstration of the lengths to which the Alabama authorities will go in their expressed determination to "get" these boys. The shooting clearly exemplifies the "justice" which may be expected.

The Alabama authorities are coming out in the open now. And the rallying cry was sounded by Prosecutor Hutson in his summation of the Patterson case when he said:

> **"Don't go out and quibble over the evidence. Say to yourselves 'we're tired of this job' and put it behind you. Get it done quick and protect the fair womanhood of this great state."**

Could anything be clearer than this? Fortunately, however, the defense will continue its fight and will appeal the conviction to the higher courts and there is still hope that there yet may be justice—not Alabama justice—given to these boys.

Clarksdale, Miss. Register
January 28, 1936

SCOTTSBORO VERDICT

For the fourth consecutive time an Alabama jury has convicted Heywood Patterson, one of the five negro defendants charged with rape in the so called "Scottsboro case," that has been dragged through the courts now for nearly five years.

Those who are most familiar with the facts in the case are convinced that the verdicts have been justified by the evidence, and it is time that outside meddlers should let Alabama attend to its own affairs.

Public sentiment throughout the state is in accord with the verdicts of the juries and the sentences that have been imposed for the crime of which Patterson was convicted, and there is, naturally, resentment against the attitude of outsiders seeking to dictate to the state how it should dispense justice.

Some of those who have interested themselves in these cases are sincere in their belief that this group of negroes have not received fair and impartial trials—but the chief reason actuating the radical organizations that have seized upon the Scottsboro cases to launch a nation-wide hue and cry is the opportunity presented to raise a huge "defense" fund for their own ends.

The demand that this group of defendants be freed, regardless of the verdicts of the courts, has been voiced chiefly by subversive organizations which advocate principles radically at variance with the doctrines upon which the American government is based.

Within the past year these radical organizations have been withdrawn from the limelight of the case, but they are still primarily responsible for continuation of the effort to tell Alabama how it shall conduct its affairs.

The significant comment of the New York lawyer who is now chief counsel for the defense that the latest conviction will be fought "with all the resources we can command," will be the basis for a demand for more funds, and so long as the financial resources hold out, these outside meddlers will continue to misrepresent Alabama.

ALABAMA SHERIFF SHOOTS SHACKLED PRISONER

9

The latest press report from the jungle state, having to do with the Scottsboro mock trial, tells the world that one of the prisoners, Ozie Powell, while chained hand and foot to the other eight prisoners, attacked a deputy sheriff and was shot in the base of the brain by the sheriff himself.

It is not quite clear and probably will never be properly explained how a prisoner thus handcuffed, with ankles shackled, could take out his knife and cut a deputy sheriff. This statement was issued by those who did the shooting, therefore its credibility can very readily be discarded.

It is reported that "such conflicting versions of a knife-gun battle in which a defendant in the Scottsboro case and a deputy sheriff were wounded developed today that a grand jury investigation was ordered." It is not expected that this investigation will do otherwise than verify the words of the sheriff who made the murderous assault upon a helpless, chained and shackled prisoner.

Defender

The Scottsboro case must be an eyesore to the decent and respectable white people of the state of Alabama. It would be as cruel, fiendish and ghoulish to believe that the best people of the state are in accord with this legal debauchery as it would be to believe that Lieutenant-Governor Tom Knight has the proper state of mind to conduct a fair trial.

Chicago Ill

Little Mr. Tom Knight has made a political football out of the Scottsboro case. As a result it has enhanced his fortune and he is now lieutenant-governor. The murderous assault on Ozie Powell will no doubt be put forth by him as a reason for his promotion to the governorship, to succeed the present incumbent.

No one knows better than Tom Knight that the Scottsboro boys are not guilty of raping the two white girls in question. This is an established fact in his mind but he is so constituted, so pregnant with hate and prejudice and so charged with sadistic influence, that the persecution of these defenseless boys is to him a pleasure.

Fortunately for Alabama he does not represent the true spirit of the great state. He is but a cringing tool that feeds upon the plaudits of the lynchers. He is the leader of a wanton and abandoned sect which represents the worst in the body-politic in the state. He is the living squire of the office of the fast-receding spirit of slavery and is ever ready and eager to do the bidding of a decaying and corrupt influence.

Ozie Powell was a victim while chained and shackled of the very spirit typified in Tom Knight in the trial of the case. The only surprise is that under the dominant spirit of such a legal machinery that all of the boys have not been found dead in their cells by this time. We have no more faith in the grand jury investigation than we have in the judge and the prosecutor.

In common with thousands of other American citizens we know that it is impossible for the Scottsboro boys to receive a fair trial under the present political setup in Alabame. Headhunters cannot conduct a civilized trial.

"POOR ALABAMA"

Under the caption "Poor Alabama," The Baltimore Evening Sun discusses the latest in the series of unfortunate episodes that have characterized the "Scottsboro" case.

Advertiser

"At this distance," the comment begins, "all one can say confidently of the latest news story from Birmingham is that Alabama is ruined again." The Evening Sun seems to have a sympathetic understanding of the hopeless position this State is in as far as getting a hearing on any phase of the case is concerned.

1-28-36

Alabama and Scottsboro were the victims of circumstances over which they had no control in the first place. Had the train on which the crime occurred been traveling in the opposite direction, it would have fallen to the lot of Chattanooga and Tennessee to handle the affair. And there is no reason to believe that the outcome would have been otherwise had that been the case.

The Evening Sun continues:

Montgomery Ala

"To anyone who knows the South, there is a good deal of plausibility in the story told by Sheriff Sandlin of the shooting of Ozie Powell, one of the defendants in the Scottsboro case. According to the Sheriff, two Negroes, Powell and Roy Wright, attacked two officers in an attempt to escape and Powell cut Deputy Sheriff Blalock across the throat, whereupon Sandlin shot him down.

"The story may be true. At any rate, Blalock has a slash in the throat. But, true or not, it isn't going to be believed. Too much passion and prejudice have been aroused by the Scottsboro case to permit, henceforth, any cool, objective examination of anything connected with it. If an archangel came down from Heaven and swore to the truth of Sandlin's story, there are people who would still believe that the affair was an attempt to murder Powell; and to date there are no archangels in sight.

"Obviously, Alabama should henceforth guard this Negro as if he were her most precious possession; but that will do no more than prevent further damage to her reputation. It will not restore the loss she suffered when the shot was fired. The United States Supreme Sourt twice has branded Alabama trial courts as unfair, and once that is done anything will be believed about the luckless State."

It so happens that Alabama is guarding the Negro "as if he were her most precious possession." Gov. Bibb Graves has ordered that every possible precaution be taken to guarahtee the safety of the defendants which is the policy the State has followed since the beginning. Significantly, however, all Associated Press dispatches remark that the "streets about the hospital being patrolled by the guardsmen are virtually deserted."

The latest episode was merely another in which this State had no other choice than to make the best of circumstances that were not of its asking. Such observers as The Evening Sun who try to maintain the impartial view may be assured of that.

Mistrial Motion Fails At Decatur

Montgomery Ala

Montgomery Advertiser

1-22-36

Comments Of Judge Basis In Defense Plea; State Rests With 10 On Stand

DECATUR, ALA., Jan. 21—(AP)—Attorneys for Heywood Patterson, first of nine negro defendants to be retired in Morgan County in the "Scottsboro" case, sought unsuccessfully for a mistrial late today, basing the motion on remarks of Judge W. W. Callahan, presiding.

The motion came shortly before the State rested, and was overruled by Judge Callahan, who told Clarence L. Watts, defense counsel who made the motion, he would "rectify" if the defense would be specific.

Watts told the court "we feel comments of the court tending to minimize the importance of the defense has made it impossible for us to get a fair trial." Watts also said the court had "shown impatience" with counsel.

Judge Callahan instructed the jury to disregard the remarks specifically mentioned.

The State rested after offering 10 witnesses. Mrs. Victoria Price, alleged victim of an attack by the negroes on a freight train in Jackson County, March 25, 1931, was the first, she told for the eighth time from the witness stand her story of what occurred on the train. Patterson is the first of the negroes to be retried since the United States Supreme Court set previous verdicts aside last April.

When the State rested, the defense called Percy Ricks, fireman on the train, and then E. P. Kingsberry, official stenographer in previous trials, to identify the transcript of testimony.

R. S. Turner, conductor on the train, previously had been called by the State, and testified that the miniature train was made up in types of cars duplicating the train on which the attacks were alleged to have occurred.

A prison guard, Opie Golden, testified that late in November, 1934, Patterson had confessed to him in the death house of Kilby Prison, that he had "messed with them girls."

Golden's testimony was admitted by Judge W. W. Callahan over the objections of defense counsel and after the jurist had heard it with the jury removed from the court room.

Mrs. Price, truculent and called "resentful" by Clarence L. Watts, of Huntsville, a new figure in the defense legal staff, was on the stand for more than an hour.

Direct examination of Mrs. Price took only a few minutes with Solicitor H. G. Bailey, of Boaz, original prosecutor in the case questioning her.

Of the attack, she told the jury that she and Ruby Bates had "hoboed" to Chattanooga the day before the date of the alleged crime, March 25, 1931, and had caught a freight train back the next day.

Montgomery Advertiser

At Stevenson, Ala., she said she and the Bates girl moved from a tank car to a gondola, and shortly after the train pulled out, the negroes came over the top of the car and threw six youthful white hoboes off and attacked her.

Montgomery Ala

On cross-examination, she said she had scratches and bruises over most of her body after the attack. During the cross-examination by Watts, she frequently replied "I don't remember," as he read from the record of previous trials.

1-22-36

Samuel S. Leibowitz, of New York, who conducted the defense in three previous trials here, took over cross-examination as the State produced Golden with his testimony of the alleged confession being made to him in November, 1934, while Patterson's appeal was pending in the United States Supreme Court.

Leibowitz sought to get before the jury that no effort was made to have Patterson write the statement that he was guilty. The defense brought from Golden testimony that Patterson had asked for the warden, George P. Walls, before making the statement, and that when the warden went to his cell the following day, the defendant did not repeat his story of guilt.

The State then began calling contributory witnesses, all of whom appeared in previous trials here, including W. H. Hill station agent at Paint Rock, Tom Taylor Rosseau, a member of the posse that arrested them, and Luther Morris, a farmer who told of seeing the white youths thrown from the train.

The jury was completed this morning but none of the 12 negroes drawn on the venire were seated. Seven were excused for cause, and the remaining five were struck today.

Of the jurymen, 10 are farmers, one is a carpenter, and the other unemployed.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.
6

Alabama

5348

CHANGE OF VENUE ASKED IN DECATUR

Telegraph

Attorneys for Scottsboro Negroes Will Fight to Shift Impending Trial

1-20-36

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 19 (AP).—Plans to carry into court tomorrow a final move for change of venue for the nine Negro defendants in the Scottsboro case were completed by attorneys tonight.

Macon Ga.

The defense counsel is seeking to shift the impending trial from Morgan to Jefferson or some other county except Jackson, in which Scottsboro is situated.

Last week when the state presented a rebuttal to the defense motion for change of venue, Judge W. W. Callahan said he would rule tomorrow, reserving his decision until the defendants appear in court.

The move for change of venue was similar to a defense motion previously denied, in which transfer of the case to federal court was asked on allegations that a "fair trial" could not be obtained here, due to "prejudice and fixed opinion."

If Judge Callahan denies the motion, Haygood Patterson, three times sentenced to death, will be called to trial immediately, thus launching resumption of trials in the five-year old case.

The Negroes are charged with attacking Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates, Huntsville, Ala., mill workers, on a freight train in Jackson county March 25, 1931.

NEW YORK TIMES

JAN 12 1936

VENUE FIGHT FAILS IN SCOTTSBORO CASE

Denial of Plea to Move Trial to Federal Court Regarded as a Blow to Defense.

CONVICTIONS HELD LIKELY

By JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES 2d.

Editorial Correspondence, THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 10.—Denial of a defense motion for the transfer of the Scottsboro case to the Federal court has put a temporary, and perhaps a permanent, end to the only remaining hope for a change of venue to some less prejudiced locale than Morgan County. Thus the latest effort to rid the famous case of the multiplicity of passions which have surrounded it and to isolate the trial upon a sole issue of innocence or guilt seems to have failed.

Trial in the Federal court would have assured the Scottsboro defendants of as representative a jury as Alabama affords. Under a system developed by W. S. Lovell, clerk of the Federal court for this district, names for Federal jury service are drawn from each county on a basis of its population and from each occupational group on a basis of its relative numbers.

Nominations are requested from leading individuals in each group—doctors, merchants, farm agents, bankers and so on. Negroes are always included, and they ~~are~~ generally of the highest local type. As a result of this system the average Federal jury in the North Alabama District is considered superior in broadmindedness and range of residence to the average State jury.

Defense Plans Criticized.

As matters now stand, the new trials, like the last, apparently will be fought out in an atmosphere of bitterness and hostility.

In the opinion of a number of Alabamians who have devoted time and energy to eliminate prejudices, the retention of Samuel Leibowitz for the defense and of Lieutenant Governor Tom Knight for the prosecution and the prominence of Socialist and Communist groups on the new Scottsboro Defense Committee will make inevitable every one of the emotional interferences which it was hoped to avoid.

To race prejudice they believe will be added prejudices against Communists, against outsiders, against Jews, against Leibowitz personally for his never-to-be forgotten description of Alabama jurors, against Knight for his suspected ambition to win the Governorship with new death sentences. These Alabamians are convinced that the only hope of a truly fair trial lay in their plan to have both Leibowitz and Knight withdraw and to entrust the defense wholly to Southern attorneys under Southern chaperonage.

Suspicions Remain.

The national organizations interested in the case quite naturally have been suspicious of this plan offered by Southerners, and particularly of the demand for withdrawal of so well advertised an attorney as Leibowitz. The Negro defendants have been equally suspicious, refusing to credit a suggestion that the sorriest shyster, if he were a local man, could do more for them now than all the genius with which Leibowitz is credited and that 10 cents' worth of local tolerance and goodwill might be worth more than $15,000 in a defense fund.

There is little or no editorial discussion in Alabama papers as the case is opened again. Nearly everybody seems to feel that new convictions are certain and that successful appeals or legal manoeuvring thereafter are equally certain. Clarence L. Watts, the Huntsville (Ala.) lawyer who has been retained to assist Leibowitz, is thought of here as a competent attorney, well enough known and liked in Morgan County to command a comparatively dispassionate attention for his clients if other things were equal, but since other things are so far from equal he is not likely to turn any tides or puncture any prejudices. If he or some fellow-Alabamian were given sole command there would be little reason to doubt his zeal, the defense committee to the contrary notwithstanding.

Guide Only Weekly Represented At Scottsboro Trials

Journal & Guide
Norfolk Va.

Once again the Journal and Guide forges ahead. But that is expected by most of the Journal and Guide readers, who subscribe to the paper because of its frequently exclusive and always creditably different coverage of all things of news value, and its unbiased and factual presentation of the week's happenings.

1-25-36

This time the Journal and Guide is the only Negro paper represented by a staff correspondent at the Scottsboro trials in Decatur, Ala. Albert L. Hinton, Guide city editor brings details of the most important current court case in the country to Journal and Guide readers, fresh from the courtroom with all of the facts as they happen.

The fact that he alone is the only representative of the Negro weeklies means that colored America will have to depend on the Guide for first-class unsuppressed and exclusive coverage, and for those little sidelights upon which the case might hinge. One need not be a mental giant to see that the case as reported in the pages of the Guide will be the only dependable record of the proceedings..

First in its Field—in Readers, in News, and in Advertising—that is the motto of the Newspaper that is first in everything. Again the paper is a first and only. Read the Journal and Guide and know what is taking place in the celebrated Scottsboro trials.

OZIE POWELL, NEAR DEATH, IS CHAINED

Daily Worker
1-28-36

Delirious Boy Grilled by Police Officials on Events of Friday

New York
N.Y.

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 27.—Ozie Powell, wounded Scottsboro boy, is still tossing on his prison bed in the filthy Negro jail ward of Hillman Hospital here, hovering between life and death.

His right side is paralyzed from the effects of the deputy sheriff's bullet which penetrated his skull, travelled an inch and a half through his brain, and was removed by surgery Friday night.

His right foot is chained to the foot of the bed.

At the door of the room, two deputy sheriffs, two highway patrolmen, and two city policemen sit and watch him night and day, cracking jokes among themselves about "the nigger that cut a deputy."

Grill Delirious Boy

At intervals, they go in and talk to him, shouting questions that contain the whole official (police) version of the occurrence on the Decatur to Birmingham road Friday night. They listen eagerly to his mumbled answers, generally no more than a moan of pain, and nudge each other, gleefully announcing the answer they want.

Most of the time, Ozie Powell lies on his right side, the paralyzed one. The doctors say they can't tell whether the paralysis will be permanent or not.

Outside of the deputies and police, Powell has no visitors. Governor Bibb Graves, it is said, has given strict orders that no one shall see him. It was only after he threatened a writ of habeas corpus that Samuel S. Leibowitz, New York defense attorney, accompanied by Clarence L. Watts, of Huntsville, were finally able to visit their client Saturday.

Ozie Powell hovers between life and death, and by orders of the Governor no [illegible] can see him but bullyragg[illegible] deputy sheriffs and policeme[illegible]

Daily

Outsid[illegible] corridor the official conver[illegible]on is that "if it had been you or me, when a nigger attacked a deputy, they would have all been dead."

Worker

There are the ever-present companions, the guardians of Ozie Powell's life, the only people allowed to talk to him at a time when the smallest shock might produce a brain-hemmorhage to finish the work began by Sheriff J. Street Sandlin of Morgan County when he stepped out of that car, Friday, and deliberately pumped a bullet into the Scottsboro boy's brain. 1-28-36

Meanwhile, Captain Potter Smith of the Sate Highway Patrol has "completed his investigation" of the occurrence on the road last Friday, and has said he will submit his report to Governor Bibb Graves at Montgomery today.

New

Meanwhile, in Decatur Jail, Ernest Merriwether, Negro drug store messenger, is being sweated, perhaps tortured, in preparation for the Grand Jury investigation which has been announced by Solicitor Melvin Hutson for February 17.

York

Sheriff Sandlin has "not yet obtained an admission that he sold a knife to Ozie Powell" from Merriwether, he said. So the sweating has to continue.

N.Y.

In Alabama, it is scarcely an indictable offense for any white man to shoot any Negro, so far as a deputy sheriff goes, that's his privilege under the customs of those who rule the state. If the deputy can produce a scratch and say he received it from a Negro, the sheriff is congratulated in all the local newspapers, and acclaimed by Lieutenant-Governor Thomas E. Knight, Jr., as a marvel of restraint which will once more set up the state officials in the eyes of the world, if the sheriff did not shoot and kill every Negro in sight.

This accounts a great deal for the contradictions in the stories of the sheriff, his deputies, highway patrolmen, and the eye-witnesses, J. G. Anderson pointed out in yesterday's dispatches.

Only a Negro boy was shot. The sheriff never thought it important to get his satellites together and have them agree on one story. When newspapermen questioned them, they just used their imagination, each trying to take what seemed to him a heroic role, describing a "desperate struggle" between three handcuffed Negro boys and two sheriffs armed with guns. To make it more heroic, Sheriff Sandlin added a second boy, Roy Wright. He couldn't very well say that Clarance Norris, who was handcuffed to Powell on one side and Wright on the other, also had a knife. So there are only two knives being displayed.

As the sheriff thought more and more about his heroic role in this battle in a car, his imagination worked even more brilliantly, and he is reported to have told one out-of-town newspaperman that Ozie Powell was shot in a scuffle on the pavement of the road, after a terrific struggle inside the car. The correspondent didn't use the story, because it did not check with what the other reporters had been told.

The new frame-up against the Scotsboro boys, which sheriff's officers are sure will make the death sentence a certainty for them when their trials are continued, probably in April, is well under way.

New York Evening Post

JAN 20 1936

Negro Janitor Put On Scottsboro Panel

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 20 (AP).—A substitute janitor fired the furnace in the Morgan County Court House today. The regular janitor—John Evans, Negro—was on the jury venire drawn for the Scottsboro case.

Although Evans has been janitor at the court house for nearly twenty years, this is the first time he has been called for jury duty.

NEW YORK TIMES

JAN 22 1936

The Scottsboro Defense.

To the Editor of The New York Times:

In your issue of Jan. 12 John Temple Graves 2d writes from Birmingham, Ala., concerning the Scottsboro cases being in great prejudice as long as the defense is in charge of national organizations with "Socialist and Communist groups" on the defense committee and with outside counsel. He suggests further that these national organizations have rejected a plan offered by Southerners for the handling of the case exclusively by Alabama lawyers.

So far as we know, no plan has been offered by Southerners for handling the defense by Alabama counsel. Not a single Alabama lawyer has been suggested who would handle the case alone, provided Northern counsel withdrew.

Mr. Graves is incorrect in characterizing the new Scottsboro defense committee as composed prominently of "Socialist and Communist groups." Among the six organizations now cooperating in it only one, the International Labor Defense, may fairly be described as led by Communists, and one, the League for Industrial Democracy, as led by Socialists. The others are the Methodist Federation for Social Service, the Church League for Industrial Democracy (Episcopal), the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the American Civil Liberties Union. The defense committee is also sponsored by the National Urban League, a Negro social service organization.

These national organizations represent the South as well as other sections of the country.

ALLAN KNIGHT CHALMERS,
Chairman Scottsboro Defense Committee.

New York, Jan. 15, 1936.

New York Evening Post

JAN 20 1936

SCOTTSBORO BOYS LOSE VENUE PLEA

8 Negroes in Panel as Fourth Trial of Haywood Patterson Gets Under Way

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 20 (AP).—Judge W. W. Callahan. in Morgan Circuit Court today denied a defense motion for a change of venue in the Scottsboro case.

The decision paved the way for the fourth trial of Haywood Patterson, first of the Negroes to face a jury since the United States Supreme Court reversed a death sentence in the case last April.

By CARLETON BEALS

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 20.—Start of the Scottsboro trial was delayed today because of the failure of Haywood Patterson and six other Negro defendants to arrive from Birmingham. Lieutenant Governor Thomas E. Knight Jr., the prosecutor, declared the highway to Birmingham is a sheet of ice, preventing rapid travel.

The court room was only half full at 11 o'clock, most of 250 seats being occupied by jury panel of 100 men, twelve of whom are Negroes. All the jurors were unusually spruced up, and the court room, although all comers are searched at the door for guns, wore a more genial air than at any of the previous Scottsboro trials.

Fewer hillbilly types were present than on other occasions. One old codger with white, uncombed hair, home-made crutch and shriveled, exposed foot, stumped to the railing and wisecracked at the defense attorneys, but the general local apathy was marked.

No white women but two Negro women were in the audience.

It was reported that instead of two trials being held simultaneously, two additional ones will be called, thus bringing a new judge, A. A. Griffith, into the case.

New York World Telegram

JAN 22 1936

SCOTTSBORO BOY DENIES SEEING GIRLS ON TRAIN

Haywood Patterson, Testifying in Fourth Trial, Retells Story of Fight.

MISTRIAL PLEA REJECTED

White Youth Unable to Identify Negroes as Those He and Companion Fought.

By the United Press.

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 22.—"I never seen any women on the train," Haywood Patterson, one of nine Negroes charged with the Scottsboro assault, declared today at his fourth trial.

"I didn't touch Victoria Price," he asserted, denying the alleged assault on a moving freight train near Paint Rock, Ala., in 1931.

Victoria Price, a white girl hobo, had testified she and Ruby Bates, her companion, had been attacked by the Negroes after the latter had ejected a group of white men from the train during a fight.

Patterson's testimony came after three defense motions for mistrials had been denied.

Under the direction of Samuel Leibowitz, defense attorney, Patterson retold the story of the train ride.

"No, sir, I'm not guilty," Patterson said in reply to a question from Leibowitz.

He denied making a confession to Obie Golden. Kilby State prison guard, as Golden had testified yesterday for the State.

Lester Carter, defense witness, testified he "hoboed" from Huntsville, Ala., to Chattanooga, Tenn., with the two girls. Miss Price yesterday said she and Ruby Bates went alone. The court sustained the State's objections to questions regarding Carter's relations with Victoria.

Under cross-examination by Lieutenant Governor Thomas Knight, prosecuting attorney, Orville Gilley, a companion of Carter, said he could not identify the Negroes as those with whom he fought on the train.

The defense rested this afternoon.

Alabama Officials Show Their Fangs

Daily Worker

AN EDITORIAL

More and more the murderous Alabama officials are showing their fangs!

1-28-26.

The deliberate lynch attempt against young Ozie Powell, one of the nine Scottsboro boys, shows clearly that the Alabama ruling class plans to discard court forms and legal procedure—and use the smoking guns of their own police agents.

New York, N.Y.

The truth of what happened is gradually trickling through the barrage of contradictory lies set up by the quick-triggered sheriff and his assistants. By slapping and cuffing Powell, Sheriff Blaylock actually goaded the youngster into protecting himself against the sort of vicious brutality all of the boys had been receiving for five years. Roy Wright and Clarence Norris, heavily handcuffed to Powell and unable to move, begged to escape their companion's fate.

In the words of Judge "Speed" Callahan, the state police "wasted no time" but immediately went about the bloody business of attempting to get rid of the Scottsboro boys one by one.

This outrageous attack dramatically hurls to the front the whole question of the rights of the Negro people, whom the Southern ruling class would terrorize through the Scottsboro case. The same forces which seek to destroy nine innocent human beings are responsible for the brutal oppression of 12,000,000 Negro people.

Even more this attack has a decisive relation to the well-being of the entire population. No plainer evidence of budding fascism in America could be brought forward than the five-year attempt to burn the Scottsboro boys.

The answer of the conscience-stricken people of America must be the building of a broad united front in every city and town to save the Scottsboro boys and to deal crushing blows to fascism and reaction.

Let the National Negro Congress ring out for the safety and freedom of the Scottsboro boys!

A mighty nation-wide support to the joint Scottsboro Defense Committee!

Lynchings - 1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

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Organizations Working For The Defense Of 9 Scottsboro Boys Merge; Trials To Begin Jan. 13

Defense for the nine Scottsboro boys, charged with attacking two white women on a freight train in Alabama in 1931, will henceforth be conducted by a joint defense committee it was announced here Friday. New trials following the reversal of the Alabama courts last April by the United States Supreme Court are scheduled to begin on Monday, January 13. New indictments were returned by a new grand jury in November.

Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers, distinguished churchman and pastor of the Broadway Tabernacle in New York City, will serve as chairman. Dr. Chalmers is speaking Sunday at Memphis, Tennessee, to five thousand young people of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Colonel William J. Schieffelin of New York is treasurer. Colonel Schieffelin formerly commanded the famous 369th Infantry, is president of the American Church Missionary Society and of the Citizens Union of New York City, and a trustee of numerous associations and schools, among them Tuskegee and Hampton Institutes.

Direction of the legal defense and exclusive control of the raising of funds and of publicity and techniques of the cooperating organizations are vested under the new agreement in the executive committee. Invitations have been extended to and are now being considered by the executive committees of other national organizations inviting them to join in the joint defense. Among those to whom invitations have been extended are several southern church and other groups. The names of these organizations and of the national sponsoring committee, membership upon which has already been accepted by a number of distinguished citizens, will shortly be made public by the committee.

Issue Statement

The full text of the statement issued by the participating organizations, which include the Methodist Federation for Social Service, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Interanational Labor Defense and the League for Industrial Democracy, follows:

The undersigned have entered into an agreement to combine the efforts of these and all other organizations and persons who wish to aid in the defense of the nine Negro boys of the Scottsboro case. Under the agreement, each organization is pledged to cooperate to secure the best possible legal defense, and to do everything possible to counteract prejudices which have thus far made a fair trial for these boys impossible. All differences as to trial counsel have been removed. Alabama attorneys of high standing will participate actively in the trial, together with other eminent counsel long connected with the case.

"All or some of the nine boys, eight of whom have at one time or another been under death sentence and whose convictions were twice set aside by the United States Supreme Court, will again be tried on January 13, 1936.

"These defendants were all minors, one of them being 13 years of age, another 14, and the eldest 20 at the time of their arrest in March, 1931, on charges of rape alleged to have been committed on two white women on a freight train in northern Alabama. One of the women testified at the second trial that there was no rape committed, nor any assault of any kind against either herself or the other complaining witness. She explained that her testimony in the first trial was extorted through fear. Her testimony, the physical facts and the medical evidence were analyzed by Judge James Horton at the conclusion of the second trial; and Judge Horton set aside the conviction as unsupported by the evidence.

"The organizations here undersigned represent men and women of all 48 states of our country, including many thousands in the South.. These citizens are determined to see that these victims of injustice are given the best defense that it is possible to give them. We believe that all fair-minded citizens of Alabama will share this determination. We believe firmly in the innocence of the defendants and call on citizens of the South and North alike to help to remove an injustice which can bring onl; injury to the entire nation.

"We appeal for moral and financial support, confident that the conscience of our country will respond."

The statement is signed by the following representatives: Walter White, executive secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Roger N. Baldwin, director, American Civil Liberties Union; Robert Minor, for the International Labor Defense; Norman Thomas, for the League for Industrial Democracy; and Bishop Francis J. McConnell for the Methodist Federation for Social Service.

Explains N.A.A.C.P. Position

In announcing the N.A.A.C.P's entering into the joint defense Walter White, executive secretary, made the following statement:

"The cases of the Scottsboro defendants are so involved with sectional, political and racial prejudices that the defense in the new trial is a matter of grave concern. The Board of the N.A.A.C.P. has considered the question of participation at two special call and two regular Board meetings. Representatives of the Association, including Arthur B. Spingarn, chairman of the National Legal Committee, Charles H. Houston, special counsel, and the association's secretary have participated in numerous conferences for the purpose of working out the details of an effective defense. We believe that the arrangement which has been perfected is about as good a one as could be achieved under the circumstances. The memorandum of agreement, which has been signed, to date, by five participating organizations and which we hope will be signed by several other organizations to which invitations to participate have been extended, contains, among others, the following provisions:

"'All activities will be directed by an executive committee composed of one representative from each of the signatory organizations. A sponsoring committee, consisting of individuals and organizations who desire to join in the defense, is provided for. The executive committee shall be supreme in all matters including the addition of representative organizations to its membership; and shall have full power to arrange for employment of counsel subject to the wishes of the defendants and their relatives; to raise funds; to obtain all services of such other persons as may be necessary for successful defense; and to organize and direct the campaign for public support. All such campaigns conducted by particiating organizations shall be subject to approval by the executive committee.'

"Special care has been taken with regard to the raising and disbursing of funds for defense, this being one of the points upon which the N.A.A. C. P. representatives laid emphasis in the conferences. All participating organizations agreed that all monies rased shall be transmitted forthwith to the treasurer of the executive committee and all disbursments shall be made only on order of the executive committee. A full accounting of all such receipts and expenditures by participating organizations shall be made to the executive committee monthly. All expenditures in the case, whether by the executive committee or by the participating organizations, are subject to supervision by the executive committee which is given the power to procure audits of expenses and receipts of each underlying organization in connection with funds for the defense. It is provided that the executive committee shall periodically issue financial statements.

"All participating organizations have agreed in writing that the conduct of the special aspects of the defense work assigned to them shall be carried out in absolute conformity with the policies adopted by the executive committee. They further pledge themselves to cooperate fully in the work of the committee and to refrain in the conduct of their work from all public criticism of the policies and activities of the other participating organizations and individuals connected with this case.' All publicity by the participating organizations 'must first be approved by the executive committee or a duly authorized sub-committee.' "

At the same time the American Scottsboro Committee, Inc., joined hands in the general organization and informed the Scottsboro Defense Committee of its intentions to speedily wind up the affairs of the body and enter the newly-formed body. This action followed a referendum on December 12 of the members of the general committee who favored merging all the groups which are working towards the same end.

Through its executive committee, the American Scottsboro Committee, Inc., issued the following statement:

Committee Dissolved

"After reviewing the responses from members of the general committee, American Scottsboro Committee, Inc., to the referendum of December 12, 1935, and full discussion, the Executive Committee of the American Scottsboro Committee, Inc., at its meeting on December 20, took the following action:

"VOTED—That we wind up the affairs of the American Scottsboro Committee; that the following statement signed by the members of the Executive Committee be sent out to the members of the general committee, and that a communication be sent to the Scottsboro Defense Committee informing them of our action.

"The American Scottsboro Committee was organized to raise funds for the defense and to set forth the truth about the boys in the Scottsboro cases so as to create public opinion in their favor separated from any propaganda for radical or other movements and to secure their freedom as speedily as possible. The Committee is made up of individual justice-loving American citizens, white and Negro, resident in many communities, and has successfully supported the counsel chosen by the defendants during the past fifteen months.

"There has now been organized a joint Scottsboro Defense Committee made up of representatives of four or five permanent organizations, which committee has undertaken the responsibility of raising the necessary funds. Mr. Samuel S. Liebowitz, the counsel chosen by the defendants, has accepted the support of this united undertaking.

"Now that the responsibility of raising funds which the American Scottsboro Committee has carried has been taken over by this new and larger group the Committee believes it should wind up its affairs. In ceasing activity as an organization the American Scottsboro Committee wishes to thank those who have given their moral and financial support, and hopes they will continue their interest in the vindication of those innocent lads.

"Proper accounting of all of our contributions will be made as soon as audit and statements can be prepared."

I.L.D. Hails Move

In a statement announcing its participation in the Scottsboro Defense Committee, the national executive committee of the International Labor Defense said:

"We are very pleased to announce the formation of the Scottsboro Defense Committee, in which the International Labor Defense will participate, with other important national organizations in the conduct of the defense of these nine innocent Negro boys. As the organization which has conducted the defense of the boys for the past four and a half years, and has secured three stays of execution and two complete reversals of sentence for the Scottsboro boys, we are especially pleased by the formation of such a committee, in whose work will be involved thousands more justice-loving people who wish to participate in the defense of these boys.

"We feel that the cause of the defense of the Scottsboro boys will be immensely strengthened by the formation of this committee."

National Urban League a Sponsor

It was also announced that the National Urban League, at a special meeting of its Steering Committee held on December 26 at the office of L. Hollingsworth Wood, 501 Fifth avenue, who is president of the National Urban League, voted to become a sponsor of the newly formed Scottsboro Defense Committee. The resolution passed by the Steering Committee reads:

"The National Urban League feels that the Scottsboro Case has become so conspicuous a symbol of interracial maladjustment that it desires to give public expression to its concern and interest in the work undertaken by the Defense Committee and to register the National Urban League among its sponsors, although the National Urban League cannot become an active member of the Defense Committee without a serious change of policy and program."

Macon, Ga., News
January 7, 1936

T78

Reds Exploit the Negro

The nine Negroes charged with attacking white women, involved in the notorious Scottsboro case, were arraigned Monday before Judge W. W. Callahan at Decatur, Alabama. It is generally understood that a plea of not guilty will be entered by all nine defendants, after which a date for resumption of the trial will be fixed.

Detective J. T. Moser, of the police force at Birmingham, where the Negroes have been held in jail, said approach of the trial has brought renewed activity among organizers of the Communist party who were attempting to gain members among the negroes there and among south Alabama share croppers.

There has never been any doubt from the beginning that this Scottsboro case was being deliberately and persistently exploited by the Communists of this country to increase their own numbers and to stir race prejudice, unrest and a hatred which logically would lead to violence. Every detail of the case from the beginning goes to confirm this fact. The mother of one of these defendants, with money furnished by the Communists, was carried all over Europe where she was used to stir emotionalism and prejudice in the interest of the Communist party.

The radical strength in Alabama is already stronger than anywhere in the South, perhaps, but it is strong enough in Georgia to arouse genuine apprehension. It is the accepted strategy on the part of these radicals to take up a case such as that of the Scottsboro Negroes and exploit it for all it is worth. It is equally certain that the pretended interest in the fate of Angelo Herndon, convicted in Atlanta of stirring insurrection and sentenced to 20 years in the penitentiary, is also being used for no other purpose than to arouse popular prejudice and strengthen the radical war front.

It has been convincingly pointed out that the alleged ideals towards which Communism is working have utterly broken down in Soviet Russia where it had the best opportunity in the history of the world to work out with the best advantage. Every theory of the folly and impracticability of Communism has been confirmed by experience. It naturally arouses a large measure of impatient protest to find these radical agitators, partly financed by the Communist Internationale and partly by the money left by the little Boston moron, Garland, continue to stir racial and class prejudice among the people of this country and particularly here in the South where the small percentage of aliens has left us so nearly free from this kind of disturbance.

Everybody who is at all familiar with the facts knows that the people of the South understand the Negro better than anybody else in the world and as a whole are more friendly and more efficient in their efforts to help him. To whatever extent it is possible to root out these agitators, drastic steps should be taken and the Negroes themselves should be most anxious to co-operate with the white people of the South to that end.

Birmingham, Ala. **Age-Herald**
January 2, 1936

THE SCOTTSBORO ISSUE

To Editor, The Age-Herald:

"Everybody will admit that the only consideration in determining the fate of the Scottsboro Negroes should be whether they are guilty or innocent."

We are sorry to say that it is very evident that quite a number of persons do not admit this as the only, or even the principal, consideration. A reader of Mr. Graves' column on Dec. 4 will find it difficult to avoid including Mr. Graves among them. He dismisses the question of guilt or innocence of the accused in a few words, but discusses at considerable length matters which are plainly irrelevant to that question, and so befog the issue as to divert attention from the improbability of the testimony of the accusers and their untrustworthiness as witnesses.

If race prejudice, sectional feeling, sectarian hatred and a desire to render null and void the constitutional guarantees of citizens' rights to the Negro race, are admitted as proper motives for convicting these ignorant Negro vagabonds, then we say that a conviction on any other grounds than that of trustworthy testimony, proving them guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, of the crime of which they are accused, will lower the state of Alabama in the estimation of the world to the level of a mean fellow who, to satisfy a grudge, poisons a neighbor's harmless dog.

Our honor can never be tarnished save by our own act.

ARCHIBALD E. LEISHMAN.
Birmingham.

For Scottsboro—and America

Amsterdam News

THE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT of the new joint defense committee to push the long and bitter fight for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys will cheer not only the supporters of these nine unfortunate youths, but also socially alert persons everywhere. The new committee is a coalition of several of the country's most outstanding liberal and radical organizations. 1-4-36

Included in the group is the International Labor Defense, the organization most responsible for the world-wide interest in the case; the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the League for Industrial Democracy, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the Methodist Federation for Social Service. The committee will have exclusive control of fund raising, publicity and the technique of securing organizational co-operation.

New York N.Y.

Equally as important as the freeing of the Scottsboro defendants is the action of this group in forming a united front to combat the forces which would deprive these boys of their lives. The nine youths in this case are more than mere unfortunate human beings. They are a symbol—a symbol of what reaction and prejudice can accomplish when supported by the power of the state.

A united front of all forces opposed to this injustice is necessary for the salvation of the Scottsboro boys. A similar united front of all liberal and radical forces may soon be necessary for the salvation of this country—if the ideals of its founding fathers are to be preserved.

The bitter splits and recriminations in the years of struggle for the Scottsboro boys have been unfortunate. Not only have they endangered the lives of the defendants, but the larger issues have often been obscured.

The Amsterdam News hails the united front. May it march forward for the salvation of the Scottsboro boys, and—if need be—for the salvation of the country itself.

Alabama

5350

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape

National Guard Captain Doubts Trial Fairness

Journal & Guide
Norfolk, Va
1-25-36

January 26th To Be Observed As Scottsboro Sunday

DECATUR, Ala. (ANP)—In the effort to prove that the nine defendants in the famous Scottsboro case cannot receive a fair trial in Morgan County, counsel for the defense filed several affidavits on January 16 supporting the claim, one of which was by Captain R. A. Burleson, of the Alabama State National Guard which served as guards at all the previous trials.

Captain Burleson declared that in addition to being at the last trial in the capacity mentioned, that he made a survey of the white citizenry here in Decatur and found that all of them with whom he talked had declared their belief that the defendants were guilty as charged and should be given the maximum sentence.

He further stated that it is his belief the boys could not receive a fair and impartial trial in Decatur or Morgan county due to the fact that all of the citizens, men and women, have a preconceived notion as to the guilt of the defendants.

Another affidavit filed was that of J. A. Hackworth, also white, a resident of Madison county, who stated that he had visited Morgan county and there questioned more than a score of citizens. Each in turn declared that they believed that the defendants were guilty and expressed the opinion that in view of his findings that it would be impossible for the defendants to receive a fair trial at the hands of any jury selected from the citizens of Morgan County.

Judge Callahan, who on January 8 denied the appeal of the counsel for the defense to transfer the case to the federal courts, is reviewing the affidavits and the appeal of the defense attorneys that the trial be transferred to Jefferson County.

BOYS DENIED TRANSFER TO FEDERAL COURT

DECATUR, Ala. — Special — When the defense motion to transfer the Scottsboro cases to the federal courts was denied by Judge W. W. Callahan in Decatur on January 8, the trial dates for Patterson and Norris were set for January 20 and 23, respectively. A jury panel, reported to include 20 Negroes, was immediately drawn. It was pointed out, however, that any or all of the Negroes summoned may be stricken by the prosecution before actual jury service.

After Judge Callahan overruled the motion to have the case transferred to the federal courts, Osmond K. Fraenkel of New York and Clarence Watts of Huntsville, Ala., defense counsel, said they would seek another change of venue. Hearing on this motion was set for January 16 and postponed to January 20, when it was denied. At the same time it was learned that the defense contemplated a direct appeal to the federal courts to take jurisdiction from the state courts if the motion for a change of venue is denied. This plan seems to have been abandoned for the present.

The International Labor Defense, which has conducted the cases for 5 years, is one of the 5 national organizations formally composing the Scottsboro Defense Committee now in full charge of the defense. Among the sponsors for the new committee are the Urban League and the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners. John Henry Hammond, Jr., is here as an observer at the trials for the latter organization, of which he is a member.

CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OFFERS "BILL OF RIGHTS"

NEW YORK (ANP) —Passage of the Amlie resolution for an investigation of the lot of tenant farmers and share croppers with particular emphasis on violations of their civil rights, and passage of the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill are urged in the 1936 legislative program of "bills of rights for enactment by congress" proposed by the American Civil Liberties union.

The union, which has Dr. Harry F. Ward as chairman and other nationally prominent individuals on its executive board, is also helping defend the Scottsboro boys in the current Alabama trials.

NATION-WIDE SCOTTSBORO MEETINGS JANUARY 26

NEW YORK—Nation-wide meetings in a score or more cities will be held on National Scottsboro Day, Sunday, January 26, it was announced here by the Scottsboro Defense Committee on January 18. The meetings will be under the auspices of the committee.

The Defense Committee estimates that at least one of the Scottsboro youths will have been tried for the fourth time before the meetings are held, and it is believed that the public will respond with huge meetings to mobilize new sentiment and financial support for the trials.

The New York City meeting will be held in the Hotel Delano, 108 West 43rd Street, at 2:00 p. m., January 26. Among the several speakers will be Norman Thomas, Socialist leader; Roy Wilkins, editor The Crisis, Robert Minor, Angelo Herndon, and Col. W. J. Schieffelin, who will act as chairman. Most of the meetings are being arranged for the 26th, but in some communities where this is not a suitable time, the meetings are being held either the 25th or the 27th.

Among the cities which expect to hold joint meetings are Philadelphia, Boston, Milwaukee, New Orleans, Pittsburgh, Washington, D. C., Cleveland, Detroit, Baltimore, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Richmond, Newark, N. J., and Norfolk.

Officers and members of all the participating organizations are urged to assist in working up these meetings, which must be done on very short notice.

Funds are desperately needed for the defense and should be sent to the Scottsboro Defense Committee, Room 506, 112 East 19th Street, New York City.

Among the members and sponsors of the Defense Committee which has issued the call for these mass meetings are, Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers, of Broadway Tabernacle, chairman; Col, William J. Schieffelin, treasurer; Norman Thomas, Bishop F. J. McConnell, Robert Minor, Rev. William Spofford, and Walter White.

The mass meetings are being arranged in each city by the joint committees of the local representatives of the national organizations represented on the Scottsboro Defense Committee. These include the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, the Church League for Industrial Democracy (Episcopal), the American Civil Liberties Union, League for Industrial Democracy, International Labor Defense, and the Methodist Federation for Social Service. Among the sponsoring organizations are the Urban League and the National Committee for Defense of Political Prisoners. Many prominent churchmen and educators, both north and south, are also individual sponsors of the committee. Individual leaders of the Young Women's Christian Association are also cooperating in many cities.

"Scottsboro Day" and the mass meetings which will mark it, are timed by the Scottsboro Defense Committee to coincide as nearly as possible with the first verdict expected to be rendered in the Scottsboro case, trials of which opened in Decatur Monday, January 20.

PATTERSON TAKES STAND IN DEFENSE

Mistrial Motions Are Denied—Montgomery Also Testifies

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 22 (UP).—Defense rested today in the fourth trial of Haywood Patterson, first of nine defendants in the Scottsboro case to be retried.

The defendant denied the charges against him.

Attorney Melvin Hutson, in opening final arguments for the State, asked for conviction on the grounds that "woman's sacred rights were violated."

He said he had no prejudice in the case but believed the attack a "most horrible crime."

Hutson asked the death sentence again be imposed on Patterson "to protect the womanhood of Alabama."

Mistrial Asked

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 22. — Three defense motions for mistrial, and cutting off a third in the middle by the court, marked the opening of the trial of Haywood Patterson here before Judge W. W. Callahan.

Clarence L. Watts, defense attorney, rose and moved for a mistrial because Judge Callahan arraigned Charlie Weems and Andrew Wright before the jury yesterday.

"I announced that I would arraign the new defendants, and no protest was made. Motion denied,' said Callahan.

Judge Callahan's remark came in the middle of a successful fight by the defense to read into the record the medical testimony of Dr. R. Bridges, of Scottsboro. Dr. Bridges is seriously ill and could not appear to testify. His testimony completely contradicted Victoria Price who testified yesterday that she was covered with scratches and bleeding when she got off the train at Paint Rock. Dr. Bridges specifically denied finding such scratches on her body, in the previous trial.

Knight, sustained by Judge Callahan, at first refused to permit reading of this testimony.

Carter Takes Stand

Lester Carter, white boy, who accompanied Victoria Price and Ruby Bates on the hoboing trip that ended on March 25, 1931, in Paint Rock, Ala., told the story of that trip, of the fight on the train between a group of white and a group of Negro boys on the train. He told of how he got off the train a mile and a half or so out of Stevenson, Ala., with four other boys.

All testimony in regard to sexual relations between the white boys was excluded by Judge Callahan.

Lieutenant Governor and Special Prosecutor Thomas E. Knight asked him whether he had been staying in New York with defense counsel. Upheld by Judge Callahan, he prevented entering into the record of documentary evidence to show that Carter had been working as a laborer in New York.

Patterson Testifies

Haywood Patterson took the stand in his own defense at 10:30. He spoke in a low voice, so that his counsel frequently had to urge him to raise it so the jury could hear. Under questioning by Samuel S. Leibowitz, he went over the story of the train ride of March 25, 1931 in detail for the fourth time in court.

He categorically denied having made any statement at any time to Guard Obie Golden of Kilby Prison. Yesterday Golden testified that Patterson had told him, in the death house he was "guilty."

"How many months were you in the death house?" Leibowitz asked him.

The Court interjected: "I don't see what difference all this makes, we're just wasting a lot of time here."

"If you had any confession to

make, would you make it to a guard or to Lieutenant Governor Knight?" was Leibowitz's next question, which the Court prevented Patterson from answering.

"You were communicating with your lawyer while in the death house?" Leibowitz asked.

"Yes."

"Almost every day?"

The Court broke in with, "I think that's enough of that."

Leibowitz: "I think it's important."

Callahan: "I don't."

Fails to Confuse Patterson

Decatur Solicitor Melvin Hutson went into a fury of cross-examination, starting out by asking Patterson whether he had not been "at the head of a procession," leaping into a gondola from a box car to attack those women, when defense counsel objected, he shifted quickly to "gang," and "crowd"—firing his questions fast and furious, without waiting for answers, nor waiting for rulings on objections made by the defense. It was an obvious attempt to frighten the defendant and and confuse him in his answers. The attempt was not successful.

Suddenly Bailey began to try to introduce testimony from the original trial at Scottsboro. Callahan over-ruled a defense objection to use of such testimony on the ground that the United States Supreme Court has ruled that trial was illegal.

Quoting from that record, for the benefit of the jury, he asked Patterson whether he did not say in Scottsboro, in the trial in March,

Patterson was recalled to the stand to testify that in the Scottsboro trial he had denied ever seeing any white women on the train.

Previously, Callahan had interrupted a colloquy between Leibowitz and Knight with the threat to the defense attorney that:

"The Court has some powers it hasn't used yet."

Powell and Robertson on Stand

Willie Roberson, another Scottsboro defendant, was called. He testified that on that day in March, 1931, he was so sick he could hardly walk, and had been in that condition for six months at least.

Ozie Powell, also a defendant, testified he had been riding far back in the train, and between Stevenson and Paint Rock nothing happened that he saw.

After Andy Wright took the star,' and essentially corroborated Haywood Patterson's entire testimony, in spite of ragging tactics by Solicitor Hutson, the defense rested at 2:30.

Asks Death

Solicitor Melvin Hutson in a 41-minute summation, spent approximately four minutes in a consideration of the evidence, and thirty-seven in an appeal to the jury to save the womanhood of Alabama."

"You must say, we are tired of this thing. We want to do this job and do it quick," he said.

His voice was breaking as he paced up and down before the jury, sometimes addressing individual jurors by name.

"This is the supreme hour in your life," he wound up, "the supreme hour in the life of the womanhood of Alabama, and in this supreme hour Alabama expects everyone of you to do your duty, and do it religiously.

"There is no verdict that could satisfy the dignity of the laws of Alabama except that you jurymen should write—guilty—of the crime of rape as charged, and we fix the penalty at death."

"The law," he said, "is all that protects Victoria Price. The law is all that makes it safe for a woman whether she be black or white or red or yellow, rich or poor, to walk on the highways of Alabama in safety.

"The womanhood of Alabama is looking to this jury for protection."

"If you fail to protect the womanhood of Alabama, all that's left is for the citizens of the State to strap on six-shooters when they walk the streets."

INQUIRY ORDERED IN POWELL CASE

Telegraph

Fellow Prisoner Says Deputy Slapped Negro and Provoked Knife-Gun Fight

1-26-36

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 25 (AP)—Conflicting versions of a knife-gun battle in which a defendant in the Scottsboro case and a deputy sheriff were wounded developed today as a grand jury investigation was ordered.

Macon, Ga.

While state authorities conducted their own inquiry, Solicitor Melvin Hutson of Morgan county directed the grand jury to meet at Decatur, Feb. 17, to investigate events leading to the knifing and shooting.

The fight occurred as the nine Negro defendants, accused of a mass attack on two white women in 1931, were being brought here by automobile yesterday from Decatur, scene of their trials.

Ozie Powell, Negro, shot in the head, was in a serious condition at a hospital here with an even chance to recover. Deputy Edgar Blalock, whose throat was slashed, was under care of a physician at his home.

Powell Slapped, Says Norris

A statement by Clarence Norris, one of the prisoners, that trouble started after Blalock slapped Powell was contradicted by Sheriff J. Street Sandlin of Morgan county who said "not a word had been said for 10 miles" during the 90-mile trip.

Sandlin said "the Negroes didn't plan the attack on us" and added he was looking for others who might have put the husky young defendants up to the abortive attack.

Governor Bibb Graves ordered protection for the Negroes "at all costs." The governor was advised there were no signs of trouble here.

Replying to statements by Norman Thomas, Socialist; the Scottsboro defense committee and the International Labor Defense, criticizing Alabama officers, Graves said "the state took every precaution possible."

Samuel S. Leibowitz, of New York, chief of defense counsel, arrived today to make an independent investigation, saying he was determined to "get the facts."

Protests Pour In

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 25 (AP) From the east, west, north and as far south as Kentucky, protests poured into the offices of Governor Bibb Graves today against the shooting of Ozie Powell, Scottsboro case defendant.

Powell was gravely wounded by Sheriff J. S. Sandlin of Morgan county after he slashed the throat of Deputy Sheriff Edgar Blalock while en route from Decatur to Birmingham.

The telegrams "demanded" the impeachment of Judge W. W. Callahan, trial judge, prosecution of Sheriff Sandlin, and immediate release of the nine Scottsboro defendants.

Like more than 25,000 other protests received at the governor's office during the five years of the case, they were filed away without comment.

New York Evening Post

JAN 23 1936

Wake of the News

Something New Pops Up in the Scottsboro Defense

By ARCHER WINSTEN

THE bald-spotted back of the round, close-cropped head of Mr. Sam Leibowitz was identified as it passed through the Pullman on the way to the diner. In front of him were his wife and daughter; both keeping him company for the trials in Decatur. The daughter was taking this little vacation from school at the mid-term.

Carleton Beals, short, plump, paleblue-eyed and smiling [Note.—This is another example of a person not fitting an impression of those who have never seen him. I had always thought of him, without going deeply into it, as tall, dark and adventurous-looking], joined Leibowitz. Mr. Beals had read more than a thousand pages of the word-by-word transcript of the previous trials and spoke knowingly of events he had never witnessed. By now you are receiving elsewhere in this paper the benefits of his knowledge.

That night on the train passing through Virginia he and I listened to Sam Leibowitz, New York's famous trial lawyer, who boasts that no client of his has ever been executed. At 10 o'clock Mrs. Leibowitz sent the porter in to say it was time for Mr. L. to rest. When he found what time it was he curled his lip down and laughed and said it was nothing, he often stayed up till 1.

Alabama

The next morning storms were falling on Alabama. Clouds covered the tops of the hills and rains filled yellow creeks, drainage ditches and even fields. Every wood looked like an ancient swamp. Nearby an unseasonable tornado was killing four people, but no one on the train knew about it then.

The rain slanted into fields of still-standing cornstalks, many blackened as if they had stood through quick-running, autumnal grass fires.

The ground was red.

Which reminds me of something I never knew till later that day. What have you always thought the Black Belt of Alabama referred to? A preponderance of Negroes? It doesn't. It refers to ~~the~~ black, richer soil extending across the southern part of the State.

Standing on the train by a door we watched the country. Little towns are so small that to make any showing they have to be all on one side of the tracks. There's no wrong side of the tracks here because there's no right.

A single front of stores faces the tracks parallel to and across a Main Street. Men of the town wear faded blue overalls. Look at them. You are in the South again. It is the mark.

A gaunt man with a beard, another with longish hair and sunken eyes and a surprisingly sharp profile ("old English stock back in the hills"), many others loafing at the stations.

They look at you and you are strange to them. You look at them and they are strange to you.

Leibowitz said: "Look at them. There they are!"

Beals and I stuck out our heads to look. One of them yelled as we passed, looking: "You'll get your haids wet."

They were standing in the rain without raincoats, without rubbers in the heavy mud.

New Idea

Soon the train was to arrive at Stevenson. That town marks the beginning of the Scottsboro drama of nearly five years ago. Only the principals were involved at that time.

The train stopped in a town. Leibowitz said: "Now, this is Stevenson. A little way out of town was where Orrie Dobbins looked out and saw the scuffling on the freight train."

When the house was reached Leibowitz pointed. There were people standing in the door this time, too, watching the train pass, just as Orrie said he watched those five years ago this March 25.

A little farther was where Luther Morris looked from the loft of his barn and saw something.

Soon after the Negro boys had kicked the white boys off the train. Over there was the road the white boys followed back to Stevenson, where they told the authorities they had a fight with a gang of Negroes on the train and were kicked off.

A succession of small towns, hardly more than crossroads and a station, followed. They were Fackler and Hollywood. Hollywood was a laugh. "There's the M-G-M Studios," said Leibowitz, pointing to a ramshackle, big old barn.

Then came Scottsboro. The tower of the court house stood high over a town with paved streets, much larger than the others.

When the train started again Leibowitz was still on his subject. The Scottsboro boys and Victoria Price and Ruby Bates had continued on their freight through to Paintrock, where they were taken off.

Leibowitz kept looking at the road that paralleled the tracks not more than forty feet away. He began talking about it, couldn't seem to get it out of mind. He made notes on it. He said: "Can you imagine a rape being committed in an open gondola car filled with gravel to within a foot of the top? That's the main road!"

Three times the road lifted above the tracks so that any one on the road would have looked down into the freight train.

Leibowitz made notes on a piece of paper. He said: "It's absolutely impossible. I'm going to make more of that road this time. I don't know why it hasn't been emphasized before."

Both points were shocking: that road had not been emphasized before and, much more shocking, that the road was there, to point

n awful and certain finger at those
ho say, "Well, you can't be cer-
ain."

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape
6

Alabama

5351

75 YEARS IN PRISON FOR PATTERSON BOY

New York Times

Latest Scottsboro Case Jury Varies Death Sentence He Has Heard Three Times.

New York, N.Y.

HE WOULD RATHER DIE

1-24-36

Alabama Court Lets Verdict Wait Until the Selection of Norris Jury Is Over.

By F. RAYMOND DANIELL.
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 23.—The first break in the succession of death verdicts returned against Haywood Patterson, one of nine Negro defendants in the Scottsboro case, came today when a Morgan County jury found him "guilty as charged," and fixed his punishment at seventy-five years in the penitentiary.

To persons unfamiliar with the bitterness with which the case has been surrounded the verdict may seem a pyrrhic victory, but to Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief of the defense counsel it was a real one. Nevertheless, he declared, he would fight on and appeal each conviction until each of the accused Negroes is freed.

The jury reached its verdict after exactly eight hours and reported to Judge William Callahan in a tense and crowded court room less than two minutes after twelve other men—all white—had been sworn to pass on the fate of Clarence Norris, another of the defendants. The two juries filed past each other in the court room, the one with a verdict found and the other supposedly with open minds.

Patterson Is Disappointed.

When the jurors in his case sent word to Judge Callahan that they were ready to report, Patterson heard the news with a sidelong glance of contempt. Three times he has heard jury foremen decree his death in the electric chair on a charge of attacking a woman. This time he was sure the verdict would be death and to his lawyers so. Later he expressed displeasure with the finding.

"I'd rather die," he said, "than spend another day in jail for something I didn't do."

His accuser, Victoria Price, a mill hand from the neighboring county of Huntsville, likewise was disappointed.

"'Twant fair," she repeated over and over, as she came from the witness room, where a few minutes before, while the crowd was waiting to hear the verdict, she had been heard laughing. Tomorrow morning she is scheduled to take the witness stand again and testify against Norris, who twice before has been condemned to death.

At 4:35 when the jury sent word that it was ready to report, Judge Callahan was selecting a jury for the Norris trial, and the courtroom was filled with prospective jurors whose minds, the law presumes might be influenced by hearing a verdict in the case of a co-defendant of the man whose life is in their hands.

Jury Waits to Report Verdict.

Judge Callahan explained to Captain R. A. Burleson, the World War veteran foreman of the Patterson jury, that he was in the midst of something that could not be postponed and hustled the jury into a vacant witness room. There they waited while the selection of the Norris jury was completed at 5:10.

The Patterson jury lined up before Judge Callahan in silence while the new jury got up from the box and shuffled out to the witness room. One of the jurors stumbled a little over Patterson's legs. The judge called for the verdict and Captain Burleson handed him a folded slip of paper.

"We, the jury, find the defendant Haywood Patterson guilty as charged and fix his punishment at seventy-five years in prison," read the clerk.

The judge took the paper back and studied it with wrinkled brow.

"The proper form of the verdict should be 'penitentiary' where the word 'prison' is used," he said. "Of course it is merely a technicality but if the defense does not object I will ask the jury if they intended to say penitentiary."

May Wait on Other Verdicts.

Nothing was said about setting a date for the formality of sentencing the prisoner, and it was understood that Judge Callahan had decided to wait until after the series of seven cases pending had been tried and pronounce sentence on all those found guilty at one time. The basis for an appeal in all the cases has been laid down by a motion for a change of venue to the United States District Court on the ground that a fair trial is impossible in Morgan County, and that Alabama statutes prevent a change of venue to some less hostile community.

Patterson and his seven co-defendants were tried originally in Scottsboro and condemned to death on April 9, 1931, for attacking Mrs. Price and Ruby Bates, another Huntsville girl, on a Southern Railway freight train near there on the preceding March 25. The ninth defendant, then only 13 years old, was held for trial in Juvenile Court.

The Supreme Court of the United States set aside the convictions and sentences imposed at Scottsboro by Judge A. E. Hawkins of Jackson County on the ground that the Negroes had not been represented "adequately" by counsel. Their first attorney was appointed by the court and was a member of the local bar, but after that the International Labor Defense took up the case and retained Mr. Leibowitz, a New York attorney

Upon a showing that a fair trial was impossible in Jackson County, Judge Hawkins transferred the cases to Decatur, the seat of Morgan County, where Patterson was tried and again convicted on Palm Sunday, April 9, 1933, after a trial before Judge James E. Horton.

Judge Horton Set Verdict Aside.

In June, 1933, Judge Horton set aside the verdict of the jury which had condemned Patterson to death, as against the weight of evidence.

When the new trial ordered by Judge Horton began in November, 1933, Judge Callahan presided and Patterson again was convicted and condemned to die. Norris, who also was tried at that time, fared no better. Judge Callahan and the Supreme Court of Alabama upheld the convictions, but the United States Supreme Court on April 1, 1935, ordered new trials for both defendants on the ground that exclusion of Negroes from the jury rolls of Jackson County invalidated the indictments on which they were tried.

During Patterson's latest trial, Mr. Leibowitz took a back seat in the courtroom and left the spotlight to Clarence L. Watts of Huntsville, a member of the local bar.

The Patterson jury retired at 9:30 last night after hearing Judge Callahan's charge. It was the shortest trial Patterson has experienced since his original conviction at Scottsboro. Judge Callahan directed them to wait until this morning to begin their deliberations. They entered the jury room at 8:35 A. M., five minutes after the opening of court.

Norris Case Taken Up at Once.

The task of selecting a new jury from a panel of 100 on which five Negroes appeared was immediately begun. One of five Negro veniremen was excused for prejudice against capital punishment and the other four were dropped on peremptory challenges by the State.

In one group of twelve veniremen called up for individual examination by court and counsel were three men who had served on juries which have condemned one or the other of the Negroes to death. They were excused by Judge Callahan from serving, but not one of the three had raised his hand when the court asked if any of the talesmen had "fixed opinions."

The following jurors were chosen finally to try Norris on the charge on which Patterson was convicted: Ralph Aldrich of Danville, James A. Hendrix of Lacey Springs, Nelson A. Norris of Hartselle, Sherley H. Moore of Hartselle, W. E. White of Danville, William E. Irvin of Somerville, Kirby B. Holland of Decatur, Frank Reeves of Hartselle, J. H. Sanders of Lacey Springs, Cooper Thomas of Lacey Springs, Samuel H. Thomason of Decatur and Wise Tyler of Lacey Springs. Mr. Reeves is a merchant and Mr. Thomason is a shipping clerk. All the others are farmers.

In qualifying the jurors, the defense resorted to an exhaustive examination, which appeared to nettle Judge Callahan, who frequently protested and complained about "wasting time."

The defense entered exceptions.

Governor Lauds Decatur Officers

Advertiser

Graves Declares Men Did 'Full Duty' When Negro Attacked Deputy In Car

1-28-36

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Jan. 27.—(AP)—Gov. Graves today said officers transporting the "Scottsboro defendants" to Birmingham did their "full duty" last Friday when one of them shot Ozie Powell, after the negro attacked a deputy sheriff with a knife.

"The officers did their full duty and are to be commended for handling a most delicate and deplorable situation in an efficient manner," the Governor said after hearing the report of Capt. Potter Smith, of the highway patrol, who made an official investigation.

Smith's report said Powell and Deputy Sheriff Edgar Blalock, who he had slashed with a knife, were struggling for possession of the deputy's gun when the negro was shot.

Dr. Wilmot Littlejohn, brain surgeon who removed the bullet from Powell's brain Friday night, protested to Gov. Graves against anyone questioning the negro in his present condition.

The Governor immediately issued orders that the negro was to be seen only on a written order from Judge W. W. Callahan in Decatur, who presided over the recent trial of Heywood Patterson, one of the defendants. Patterson was convicted and sentenced to 75 years, and the remaining trials were postponed indefinitely because of illness of a defense witness.

Dr. Littlejohn said he was "astounded" to see in the papers the report that an attorney was allowed to question Powell "without my knowledge or consent, less than 24 hours following a brain operation."

After an examination early tonight, Dr. Littlejohn pronounced his condition "very good" with chances of recovery slightly enhanced.

Capt. Smith told the Governor he was assured by his investigation that a negro delivery boy had given Powell the knife with which he slashed the deputy's throat 23 miles south of Decatur.

Montgomery, Ala.

The Morgan County Grand Jury meets in regular session on Monday, Feb. 17, and Solicitor Melvin Hutson will place the facts before the inquisitors. The solicitor the day after the affray said the negro might be indicted for assault with intent to murder, or conspiracy to murder "if the facts warrant it."

Sheriff J. Street Sandlin, who shot Powell after the attack on Blalock, still is investigating the case and said he would make his report when he completes it.

Sandlin and Blalock were riding the front seat of the car with Powell, Clarence Norris and Roy Wright on the back seat, handcuffed together, when Powell reached over with his free hand and slashed the deputy in the throat.

Only one shot was fired by Sheriff Sandlin, the bullet hitting Powell in the skull.

The nine negroes were being transported here from Decatur.

They are under indictment for an alleged attack on Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates aboard a freight train in Jackson County, March 25, 1931. All except Roy Wright have been convicted once, but only Patterson and Norris have been tried more than once.

MAY CAUSE THE DEATH OF POWELL

Daily Worker

State Plans New Charge Against 3 Attacked By Sheriffs

1-29-36

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 28. — Despite the serious and critical condition of Ozie Powell, desperately wounded Scottsboro youth, Alabama authorities were planning today to transfer him from the jim-crow jail ward of Hillman hospital to the Jefferson County jail.

Hospital facilities in the Jefferson County jail are known to be inadequate for white prisoners. There are virtually none for Negro prisoners. The officials are planning to make the transfer because Powell has "improved so much."

As a result of the delicate two-hour operation performed on young Powell's brain late Saturday night the attending surgeons have declared that any sudden shock may cause a cerebral hemorrhage from which immediate death will follow.

Gov. Bibb Graves, of Alabama, completely whitewashed the shooting of Powell in a statement issued at Montgomery yesterday. He said "the officers did their full duty and are to be commended for handling a most delicate and deplorable situation in an efficient manner."

The statement is regarded as an answer to hundreds of protests which have demanded an impartial investigation of the whole shooting incident.

Roy Wright and Clarence Norris, Scottsboro boys handcuffed to Powell when he was shot, have declared that Sheriff Blaylock cuffed and cursed Powell because he refused to discharge defense attorneys retained by the joint Scottsboro Defense Committee. When Powell attempted to parry the blows, Sheriff Sandlin stopped the car, got out and deliberately shot Powell in the head, they said.

"I begged for my life." Wright said, "And so did Clarence."

Lieutenant-Governor Thomas E. Knight, Jr., special prosecutor of the Scottsboro cases, has announced that he will ask for indictments against all three of the boys for "feloniously assaulting" the guilty

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SAY GUARDS GOADED SCOTTSBORO NEGRO

Leibowitz and Watts Assert Officers Tried to Make Prisoners Change Counsel.

STABBING VERSIONS DIFFER

Two Defendants Are Quoted as Charging Sheriff Threatened to Kill Them in Car.

Times 1-27-36

By F. RAYMOND DANIELL.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 26.—Defense attorneys in the Scottsboro case said today that their clients had told them that Ozie Powell, one of the nine Negro prisoners who was shot in the head after an attack with a knife upon a deputy sheriff of Morgan County, was goaded into his rash act by threats intended to frighten them into repudiating their present lawyers.

Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief of defense counsel, and C. L. Watts, his Southern associate, made this assertion in a joint statement issued after they had questioned Roy Wright and Clarence Norris, who were handcuffed to the critically wounded Powell when the fracas started in an automobile on the way here from the Morgan County jail in Decatur.

The lawyers also visited Powell in the Hillman Hospital, where he was taken for the removal of a bullet from his brain, and said they had found him too delirious to talk, despite assertions by policemen guarding him that he was lucid both before and after the visit of his attorneys. The guards said that Powell had confessed that there was a plot by the Negroes to escape and that he asserted he had been forced into it under threat of death.

The version of the stabbing and shooting as given out by the defense attorneys before they left town for home was sharply at variance with the official accounts. Sheriff J. Street Sandlin of Morgan County has said that he shot Powell without the exchange of a word after the Negro had attacked his deputy, Edgar Blalock, with a knife.

Sheriff Pushes "Plot" Inquiry.

The Morgan County Sheriff, who is holding Ernest Merriwether, a Negro delivery boy, on an open charge on the suspicion that he sold the knife to Powell, said today that he was continuing his investigation into what he said he believed to have been a plot by white men to let the Negroes escape. Captain Potter Smith of the State Highway Patrol said that he had completed his inquiry into the stabbing and shooting, and would report to Governor Bibb Graves tomorrow in Montgomery, the capital of this State.

The joint statement issued by Mr. Watts and Mr. Leibowitz was based upon notes they had taken during an interview with Roy Wright and Clarence Norris, the two defendants who were handcuffed to Powell in the back seat of the automobile in which they were being transported from the scene of the trial of Haywood Patterson in Decatur to the Jefferson County jail here.

The notes were made upon the back of a bail bond blank supplied the defense attorneys by one of three deputies who overheard most of what passed between the lawyers and their clients.

Wright denied to his lawyers the charge of Sheriff Sandlin that he, too, was armed with a knife. He said that Norris, whose two hands were manacled as he sat between him and Powell, tried desperately to stop the fight and get Powell to drop his knife. He asserted that Powell, who has been waiting nearly five years in prison for the new trial the United States Supreme Court promised him after he was condemned to death at Scottsboro, had been "acting queer lately."

The story of the Negroes, as told to their lawyers, differed from the official versions chiefly in that the Negroes held that Sheriff Sandlin shot Powell after the Negro had been disarmed, while the other two defendants were holding their hands above their heads. The Sheriff said he shot Powell in the car which he was driving when all three made a concerted attempt to escape.

According to the Negroes, pressure which was exerted on them when they were taken to Decatur last Jan. 6 for arraignment before Judge W. W. Callahan, was renewed when they started back for Birmingham after Patterson's trial, which resulted in a conviction and a sentence of seventy-five years in prison.

Negroes Charge Death Threat.

Lieut. Gov. Thomas E. Knight Jr. and Deputy Assistant Attorney General Thomas E. Lawson, the Negroes said, "rolled up" just as Sheriff Sandlin was threatening to execute all three Negroes unless they admitted that their lawyers gave Powell the knife.

This is Roy Wright's story as the lawyers reconstructed it from their notes:

"We were taken from Birmingham to Decatur by train on the day we were to be arraigned before Judge Callahan. One of the deputies who took us to Decatur was a deputy named Walton.

"He said to us:

" 'When you get up to the court in Decatur tell the judge that you don't want Mr. Watts or Mr. Leibowitz as your lawyers. The only thing those lawyers can do is to make more trouble for you and if you say that you don't want them, the judge would then appoint a lawyer for you, and if that happens then Mr. Knight will drop out of the case and it will not go so hard against you.'

"We went to court but we never told the judge anything of the kind. On the return trip they carried in by automobile. Walton was driving the car, with Sheriff Sandlin by his side. Haywood Patterson and Ozie Powell were in the car with me.

Quotes Deputy as Warning Him.

"Walton said to us, after the car left Decatur:

" 'Why didn't you niggers do as I asked you? You're going to fool around and stay in jail for five more years. All the lawyers want to do is to make a big hurrah, to raise more money for their own benefit.

" 'Leibowitz has brought Mr. Watts into the case to draw more money. The lawyers will profit a million dollars on you and then drop you. I don't blame you for not doing as I said before today because you boys didn't realize what the lawyer had been up to up to now. But you have been told two or three times what to do and wouldn't take my advice and from now on I will not have any more mercy on you than a snake.'

"I told the deputy that I was satisfied with my lawyers and that if Mr. Leibowitz wanted to hire Mr. Watts, who is a Southern lawyer, it was up to him."

Wright proceeded as follows, telling of the later trip in the course of which Deputy Blalock was cut and Powell was shot:

"Last Friday we left the jail in Decatur. At the wheel of our car was the High Sheriff of Decatur and beside him was the deputy who was cut. After a while this deputy said: 'Walton has been talking to you; if you had done what he wanted you, all would have been tried to be let off with a light sentence—not more than ten years.'

"The high Sheriff said: 'I told you Niggers that you wouldn't get a trial and I'll bet ten to one that you'll not be tried in ten years. If I had my way, I'd drive all these lawyers out of town.'

"Ozie said: 'Oh, I'd rather have those lawyers than any I've ever seen,' and turned to me. He then said: 'Damn, what they're talking about.'

Charges Deputy Slapped Powell.

"The fellow that got cut was sort of turned around in his seat with his back to the windows and his left hand nearest to Powell. He slapped Ozie as soon as he had made that remark and Ozie got his knife out of his pocket and slashed at him. As he leaned forward to slash the deputy he pulled Clarence with him because Clarence was handcuffed to Ozie Powell. Clarence yanked Ozie back and I said:

" 'Sit down and give up that knife.'

"With that Ozie dropped the knife to the floor of the car. The High Sheriff started blowing his siren and put his foot on the brake and stopped the car. We all threw our hands up as the car stopped. The High Sheriff got out of the car on the left side and walked toward the front of the car. Then as though he had changed his mind he started back. He pulled out his gun and pulled open the door a little bit and pointed the gun inside the car and said:

" 'I'm going to get rid of all of you.'

"He fired one shot at Powell. Soon afterward Mr. Knight and Mr. Lawson rolled up on the other side.

Says They Begged for Their Lives.

"After he fired the shot, the High Sheriff put the gun up to my head. I begged him not to shoot us. I begged for my life, and so did Clarence. He said: 'Who was it that got you the knife—it must have been those lawyers, Leibowitz or Watts, that smuggled the knife into the court house.'

"I said: 'No, Powell got the knife on the little roof over the cell, which he could reach if we climbed up on the door of the cells. He found magazine there, too.'

"The High Sheriff then said: 'I know who you got that knife from. You got it from that boy from the drug store, that used to come into the jail.'

"I said, 'No, he did not.'

"He pointed the gun in my face cursed, and said, 'Do you mean to dispute my word? He brought it in.'

"And I said 'All right, he brought it in.' I was afraid he'd kill me if I didn't agree with him.

"The deputy who was cut was then taken out of the car and the High Sheriff driving the car with the High Sheriff from Cullman beside him started off with us to Birmingham. On the way the Cullman Sheriff said to the Decatur Sheriff that if it had been him he wouldn't have quit shooting until he'd killed us all, and the Decatur Sheriff said:

" 'I'd like to take a shot at those lawyers. Watts has been associating with Leibowitz and now he thinks he's so smart we'll run him out, too.' "

Lynchings - 1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

5352

BITTERNESS IS ADDED TO SCOTTSBORO CASE

New York Times

Trials Are Delayed After Conviction Of One of the Accused Under the Law as It Is Laid Down

1-26-36 New York, N.Y.

By F. RAYMOND DANIELL.

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 25.—The rash act of Ozie Powell in stabbing a deputy sheriff who was taking him to jail has heaped new coals upon the fires of bitterness surrounding the famous Scottsboro case. It makes death sentences for all the Negroes accused with him of attacking two white women almost certain and it raises a question of the wisdom of appealing from the verdict of the jury which condemned Haywood Patterson to a life in prison.

It is probable, however, that the Negroes whose trials were indefinitely postponed after Patterson's fourth conviction could be brought back here tomorrow without danger of a lynching.

There were few indications at the court proceedings this week of the hysteria which marked the earlier trials. That is undoubtedly because the citizens of Morgan County feel reasonably sure that, with Judge W. W. Callahan presiding, there will be no miscarriage of justice as they see it.

Judge Callahan promised at the outset to "debunk" the trials of the Negroes. He made his promise after Judge James E. Horton had incurred the bitter enmity of local folk by reversing the verdict of a jury which decreed Patterson's execution in the electric chair after a trial before him.

Judge Horton's Attitude.

Judge Horton heard all the evidence that was offered by both sides. He took the position that in a case which had assumed the importance of the Scottsboro case, hemmed in as it was—and is—by the extraneous issues of sectionalism, race prejudice and politics, anything that would help to bring out the truth was admissible in evidence. By doing so, he allowed what the law decribes as a "reasonable doubt" to creep in upon the consciousness of the court room hangers-on.

So long as that doubt remained there was need for National Guardsmen to protect Haywood Patterson—the man on trial—and his six colored co-defendants, from the mob violence which threatened them. When doubt of the outcome was lessened the danger of violence was lessened in the same ratio.

Thus at Patterson's first trial before Judge Callahan, in whom the townsfolk have the utmost confidence, it was deemed safe to dispense with the services of the militia, and the safety of the defendants was entrusted to special deputies from Birmingham. At that trial Patterson and Clarence Norris, a fellow-defendant, were convicted and sentenced to death at trials which the defense charged were prejudiced by the judge himself.

Citizens Support Bench.

The faith of the citizens of Morgan County in the orderly processes of the law was justified, just when they were beginning to speak openly, and with nostalgia, of the old-fashioned "hempen way." Even when the United States Supreme Court ordered new trials for the two condemned Negroes on the ground that they had been illegally indicted by grand juries from which members of their race had been excluded, the good folk of Morgan County shrugged their shoulders and placed their faith in Judge Callahan and the law.

If they must put Negroes upon their jury rolls, the State could "strike" them before they ever got into the jury box, couldn't it? So they reasoned. Alabama could still render lip service to the Fourteenth Amendment and flout it as she had since the evil days after the War between the States, they reasoned. That, and more, is exactly what happened; and because it did happen the poor whites of this region, where the economic gulf is narrow between the upper class of one race and the lower class of another, are willing to "let the law take its course."

The appearance of Negroes on the panel from which juries were chosen to try Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris caused little stir among the overalled audiences which gathered to see the "big shot" lawyer from New York link horns with the champion of the womanhood of Alabama, Lieutenant Governor Thomas E. Knight Jr. No one in the court room had any doubt but that the former Attorney General, who entered the case more to protect the Jim Crow jury system than to prosecute the Negroes, would see to it that all the colored men were eliminated.

He did.

Special Deputies Not Needed.

Judge Callahan's "debunking" of the Scottsboro case was so successful two years ago that this time, in spite of the Supreme Court ruling necessitating the inclusion of Negroes on the jury rolls if not on the juries, it was not necessary even to swear in deputies from Birmingham to protect the defendants. Only a handful of State highway policemen were on hand to guard them, and all there was to protect them from lynching, really, was the certainty of the townsfolk that after the formality of a trial the Negroes would be dealth with "as the law provides."

In Patterson's trial, which resulted in a conviction and the recommendation of a penitentiary sentence of seventy-five years, Judge Callahan proved himself a strict constructionist as opposed to Judge Horton concerning the rules of evidence. Where Judge Horton had stretched a point to get to the bottom of a story which is at least dubious, Judge Callahan thumbed the law books and found reasons for excluding a great deal of testimony, which it seemed to a layman who has observed all but the first trials at Scottsboro, might have shed some light upon what really happened.

Evidence Ruled Out.

Judge Callahan held repeatedly that the defense had no right to show that Victoria Price might have given the physical appearance of having been attacked entirely as the result of her own willing indiscretions with white men on the night before she accused the Negroes of attacking her, after a posse had stopped the freight train on which she and her momentary lover were hoboing.

The State's own witness, Dr. R. R. Bridges, gave testimony at the trial before Judge Horton tending to bear out the theory of the defense about how the complaining witnesses got into the condition in which he found them. After that the State never presented its medical testimony, holding that a party to a lawsuit cannot attack its own witness.

Since the State will not call Dr. Bridges after his testimony on cross-examination at the trial before Judge Horton, the defense cannot do so without developing certain medical evidence and then finding itself stymied in the very thing it seeks to prove—that the circumstance can be explained without admitting an attack by the Negroes.

Judge Callahan has refused to permit defense counsel to interrogate Mrs. Price, the lone complaining witness, on what she did in Chattanooga or with whom she went there. In all this he has had the apparent approval of the court-room crowd, even when the defense in desperation moved for a mistrial and accused him to his face of bias and prejudice.

Word Against Word.

With the evidence limited, by Judge Callahan's interpretation of the Alabama statutes, virtually to the question of a white woman's word against the word of an accused Negro, the court room crowd and the people of Morgan County have been satisfied.

Patterson's life has been saved. He has been condemned to a penitentiary sentence longer than even the most optimistic actuary would reckon his life probabilities. For Mr. Leibowitz, who boasts that few of his clients ever have gone to the electric chair, it is a victory, but for Patterson it is what? A Negro in jeopardy of his life is a potential martyr, but a Negro in jail for the rest of his life for a sordid crime is a forgotten man.

FOR THE DEFENSE

Associated Press.

Samuel Leibowitz, acting for the accused in the Scottsboro case.

SCOTTSBORO NEGRO SHOT TRYING BREAK AS HE STABS GUARD

Times

Ozie Powell, Armed With Knife Smuggled to Him in Jail, Attacks Deputy in Car.

1-25-36

TRIAL HAD BEEN DEFERRED

New York

Prisoner "Feared Murder" on Way Back to Birmingham—Governor Orders Inquiry.

By F. RAYMOND DANIELL.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 24.—Ozie Powell, one of the nine Negro defendants in the Scottsboro case, was shot through the head and critically wounded this afternoon in an apparent attempt to escape, after Judge W. W. Callahan had sentenced Haywood Patterson to seventy-five years' imprisonment and adjourned the rest of the trials indefinitely.

Powell was shot while handcuffed to two other prisoners, Roy Wright and Clarence Norris, in an automobile driven by Sheriff J. Street Sandlin of Morgan County, who was taking them back to the Jefferson County jail in Birmingham. The shooting occurred after Powell allegedly slashed the neck of Edgar Blalock, a deputy sheriff, with a knife which was smuggled to him during his stay in the local jail.

The attempted escape was staged on the downgrade of Lacon Mountain, about twenty miles from here, and about twelve miles this side of Cullman, about 2 P. M., less than an hour after the nine Negroes left Decatur in three automobiles escorted by two carloads of State highway patrolmen. According to Highway Patrolman J. T. Bryant, both the Negroes with Powell joined in the attempt to escape.

Prisoners Searched on Road.

Lieutenant Governor Thomas E. Knight Jr., former Attorney General, who is the special prosecutor of the Scottsboro cases, was driving behind the motorcade of prisoners and their escorts when the shooting of Powell occurred. He left his car and ordered his Negro chauffeur to take Blalock to the hospital in Cullman while he supervised the searching of the Negroes on the roadside.

The deputy sheriff was bleeding badly from a wound in his neck, but Dr. R. A. Culpepper of Cullman, who treated the injured man, said that he was not critically wounded. Powell, with a bullet in his brain, was taken on to Birmingham, a distance of some seventy-odd miles, still handcuffed to Wright, one of the juvenile defendants, and Norris, whose trial was postponed indefinitely today because of the failure of opposing lawyers to agree upon the manner of introducing the testimony of a witness who was too ill to come to court.

At Birmingham, Powell, still conscious, was taken to Hillman Hospital, a Jefferson County institution, for an emergency operation to remove the bullet, which had penetrated the upper part of his skull and buried itself an inch deep in his brain. The operation was performed by Dr. Wilmot Littlejohn, a Birmingham brain specialist.

The scuffle which resulted in Powell's shooting occurred in the middle car of the motorcade of three. Sheriff Sandlin was driving and Deputy Blalock was on the front seat with him.

The Negroes rode behind them. Suddenly, just before the cars passed over the Morgan County line into Cullman, Powell, whose right had was free, whipped out a knife and drew it across Blalock's throat, according to Patrolman Bryant, who saw the scuffle from the car behind.

The doors of the Sheriff's car were locked from the inside and before Sheriff Sandlin could stop the machine, according to the three patrolman, the three manacled Negroes were upon the Sheriff and his deputy. The policeman said that Powell seized Blalock's gun with his free hand but lost hold of it before he could do any harm. In the ensuing scuffle, Patrolman Bryant said, "the gun went off" and Powell was shot.

By this time Patrolman Bryant had succeeded in opening up the auto doors with the aid of Thomas E. Lawson, a Deputy Attorney General, and, Jack, the latter's Negro chauffeur, a trusty from Kilby prison. There on the road a few feet from G. F. Anderson's filling station at the top of Lacon Mountain, the Negro prisoners were taken from the three cars and searched for weapons.

Paid Knife Smuggler 35 Cents.

The knife which Powell had used was found on the back seat of the car in which he had been riding. It was a "Switz knife," with a blade about four inches long and a handle of about the same length, according to Patrolman Bryant. Powell said later that he had paid a Decatur Negro thirty-five cents to smuggle the weapon to him in the Morgon County jail.

He assaulted Deputy Sheriff Blalock, he said, in a desperate attempt to escape because he believed that the authorities were plotting to murder him and his fellow defendants on the way back to Birmingham.

No weapons were found on the other Negroes and none of them was injured when they arrived at the jail in Birmingham. Mr. Blalock returned to him home in Decatur after treatment.

News of the shooting spread rapidly over the whole countryside between here and Birmingham and there were little clusters of overalled farmers around the telephones of the general stores along the Montgomery highway, all seeking information. The report most generally credited at first was that a sniper had killed Haywood Patterson, but this proved baseless.

Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief counsel for the defense, had left for his home in New York and C. L. Watts, his associate from Huntsville, the home town of Victoria Price, the tar witness against the Negroes, also had gone home. Mr. Leibowitz learned of the shooting at the Read House in Chattanooga and planned to return to Birmingham.

Negroes Are Not Molested.

While the attempted escape took place almost at the border of Cullman County, a German community which boasts that it has no Negro residents, no attempt was made to molest the Negro defendants when they stopped briefly in the town of Cullman, the county seat. So bitter is the animosity to Negroes in Cullman, however, that the railroad had to give up using Negro firemen on trains passing through there because the natives had taken up the sport of stoning them with precise aim and regularity.

Mr. Anderson, the filling-station man who saw the fight in the car as it went past his stand, the only sign of human habitation for miles, said that both the Negro and the deputy whom he had assaulted were brought back to his place. The Negro, Anderson said, was "still kicking around," when the procession started on to Birmingham.

The Morgan County grand jury does not meet until February, but when it does it is expected that Melvin Hutson, the local solicitor, will ask it to return indictments charging assault with intent to commit murder against Powell, Wright and Norris. The incident also caused some speculation regarding the possibility that the defense might offer guilty pleas for some or all the defendants when the trials are resumed in the Spring.

The trial of Norris, for which a jury was chosen yesterday, was postponed after a brief court session this morning. Victoria Price, the woman who says that she and Ruby Bates were raped by all nine of the Negro defendants, held up the proceedings by arriving half an hour late, dressed in faded calico and a shabby overcoat,

Lawyers for the State explained that she was suffering from the grip. Her face, usually made up liberally with cosmetics, was pale. She made no secret of her disappointment that Patterson had not been condemned to death as he had been by the three earlier juries which found him guilty of her charges.

It soon became apparent today that the Norris trial had struck a snag which would postpone it indefinitely when Mr. Leibowitz and Lieut. Gov. Knight were unable to agree upon the form of a "showing" of the testimony of Dr. R. R. Bridges, who is near death in Scottsboro. Neither the State nor the defense wanted to take the responsibility for bringing the doctor to court and Mr. Leibowitz said that in the absence of a "showing," or narrative abstract of his testimony at an earlier trial, he could not go on.

Disagreement Over Testimony.

Mr. Leibowitz wanted the "showing" drawn so that it covered only part of Dr. Bridges's testimony contradicting the statement of Mrs. Price that she was covered with cuts and bruises when he examined her, and asserting that he found her pulse and respiration normal. This would have forced the State to present other parts of the physician's testimony which would have allowed Mr. Leibowitz another chance to attack the testimony against the Negroes,

At Patterson's last trial the State did not offer the medical testimony and Mr. Leibowitz was not permitted to go into the matters which he insists demonstrate the possibility, at least, that the testimony of the complaining witness is untrue.

Judge Callahan offered to postpone the trial of Norris and proceed with the trials of Andy Wright and Charlie Weems on Monday. Mr. Leibowitz said, however, that the doctor's testimony was as important in those cases as in the one before Judge Callahan and the latter then dismissed the jury and continued the trial indefinitely. It was believed that the trials would be resumed in April, however.

Patterson was brought into the court after the Norris jury was dismissed to have sentence pronounced upon him. He stood erect before the bench as Judge Callasan said:

"Haywood, a jury has found you guilty of the crime of rape and sentenced you to the penitentiary for seventy-five years. Have you anything to say before I formally pronounce this sentence upon you?"

"Yes sir, Your Honor," said Patterson, "I am not guilty and I don't think justice has been done me in my case."

Governor Sends Adjutant.

By The Associated Press.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 24.—Governor Bibb Graves said tonight that he had dispatched Adjt. Gen. John C. Coleman of the Alabama National Guard to Birmingham to "survey the situation" and assist in investigations into the wounding of a Scottsboro-case defendant and a deputy sheriff near Cullman.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
January 25, 1936

It Could Have Been Worse

Although there are many doubtful elements in this attempted escape of some of the Scottsboro defendants, Alabama has reason to be glad that the result was no worse than the slight wounding of one officer and one defendant. In view of the tense emotions wrapped up in the case, it is fortunate that the attempt to escape was thwarted and that no one was seriously hurt.

As it happens, however, justice in Alabama should rate a bit higher than before. Officers transporting the defendants demonstrated a fine measure of self-control. Their conduct should be an answer to unjust charges that Southern officers are always quick on the trigger when Negroes accused of rape attempt to escape. If these guards had been only half as bad as some poorly informed persons think, this murderous attack would have resulted in the death of at least the two Negroes directly involved.

The incident also serves to show the character of the defendants, if rioting in jails and other obstreperousness had not already proved that. While one can urge justice for them no one in the light of their continued conduct can believe that the Negroes are peaceful, pure-minded boys. This attack, with their previous conduct while in jail, stamps them as reckless and vicious and without regard for law.

Particularly heinous this attack seems just at this time when the defendants should have had reason to believe that they are making progress in their fight for freedom. The outcome of the fourth Heywood Patterson trial should have convinced all the defendants that their plight was not so desperate as it had been.

But amid all the discussion about the latest development in this Scottsboro case, there will run a thread of wonder of how the two Negroes came into possession of knives and how officers could permit defendants in any capital case to become armed. It looks like somebody was careless here.

Lynchings - 1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

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BROOKLYN, N. Y.
TIMES UNION

JAN 21 1936

Scottsboro Case Up Again.

Divested of the Communist tinge that clung to it in previous trials, the case of the seven Scottsboro Negroes charged with having attacked two white women, in a Southern railroad car, comes up for trial today at Decatur, Ala. The crime is alleged to have been committed nearly four years ago. Of the seven men, Harvey Patterson, who goes on trial today, has already faced a jury three times, and been convicted in every case. The convictions, however, were set aside in two instances by the United States Supreme Court, and on another occasion by the local justice presiding at the trial. The latest reversal by the Washington high court was effected because the jury that tried Patterson was made up entirely of white men, thus discriminating against the prisoner because of his color, and contravening the ancient principle that a man accused of crime shall be tried before "a jury of his peers."

It is the expectation that a colored man will be called on to serve in the jury box today, but if the exclusion of such a representative is merely the result of chance, as is usually the case in fairly contested trials, this action will not militate against the impartiality of the verdict.

The Communist influence which pervaded the previous trials is eliminated from the present one. A committee, headed by the Rev. Allen K. Chalmers, of the Broadway Tabernacle, of this city, has undertaken the defense of the Negroes. A local lawyer of consequence in his community is in charge of the court work. He will be assisted by Mr. S. S. Leibowitz, of this borough, whose effective labors in previous trials had much to do with the victories achieved in the Supreme Court.

CONFESSION TOLD AT ATTACK TRIAL

Macon Telegraph
Macon, Ga.
1-22-36

State Penitentiary Guard Says Patterson Admitted Assaulting Two Women

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 21 (AP)—A purported confession by Heywood Patterson, one of the nine Negro defendants in the Scottsboro case, was related today to a jury of 12 white men selected for the first of the retrials ordered by the United States Supreme Court.

Opie Golden, guard at the state penitentiary, testified the confession was made orally by Patterson, whose previous conviction was reversed by the United States Supreme Court on grounds Negroes were "systematically" excluded from Alabama juries.

Although one Negro sat on the grand jury which returned new indictments in the case, none of the 12 drawn in the panel of 100 for the Patterson trial remained when the jury was finally selected.

Seven were excused "for cause" and the remaining five were struck by the defense or state. Strikes are made by number, making it impossible to determine which side eliminated the Negroes.

Golden said Patterson, thrice convicted and sentenced to die, told him he attacked "them girls" and that his eight co-defendants likewise were guilty.

Mrs. Price Testifies

They are accused of attacking Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates, mill workers, aboard a frieght train near Scottsboro, Ala., in 1931.

The statement was made by Patterson, Golden testified, in 1934 while the Negro was being held in the death house pending appeal to the supreme court.

Cross examined by Simual Leibowitz of New York, chief of defense counsel, the guard said he made no effort to relay the information to the prison warden until the next day. He said that when the warden went to Patterson's cell, the prisoner refused to talk.

Preceding Golden, Mrs. Price testified for the eighth time regarding the alleged mass attack. She identified Patterson as one of her attackers.

NEW YORK TIMES

JAN 23 193

SCOTTSBORO CASE GOES TO THE JURY

Asking Chair for Negro, Prosecutor Demands Protection for Alabama Women.

MISTRIAL PLEAS DENIED

Defense Takes Exception to Judge's Comments as He Reads Requested Charges.

By F. RAYMOND DANIELL.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 22.—Haywood Patterson's fourth trial for his life on a charge of rape ended today, as have all the other trials in the famous Scottsboro case, with an appeal to the passions of the jury.

Summing up for the prosecution, Melvin C. Hutson, the local solicitor, told the jurors that the womanhood of Alabama was looking to them for "protection." If Patterson were not made to pay with his life for a crime of which he swore today that he was innocent, Mr. Hutson said, the women of the State would "have to go around with six-shooters" to protect themselves.

"Don't go out and quibble over the evidence," roared the young successor to Wade Wright. "Say to yourselves 'we're tired of this job and put it behind you. Get it done quick' and protect the fair womanhood of this great State.' "

It was nearly 5:30 P. M. when the closing arguments by Mr. Hutson, Thomas E. Knight Jr., Lieutenant Governor and special prosecutor, and of Clarence L. Watts, a defense attorney, were completed. Judge W. W. Callahan, whom the defense had charged with bias and prejudicial conduct repeatedly throughout the trial, left it to the jury to decide whether to return after dinner to hear his charge or wait until tomorrow morning.

"Let's come back tonight and get it over with," one of the farmers on the jury shouted and his fellows indicated their approval. Judge Callahan then declared a recess until 7:30 P. M.

Defense Objections Overruled.

A panel of 100 talesmen has been drawn for the Norris trial and Judge Callahan yesterday interrupted Patterson's trial to draw veniremen to sit in judgment of Charlie Williams and Andy Wright next week. He did this in full view of the jury trying Patterson's case and this morning Mr. Watts asked Judge Callahan to declare a mistrial on the ground that bringing the Negroes manacled into court was prejudicial.

Angrily denying the motion, Judge Callahan pointed out that the defense had registered no objection when he announced what he was going to do. Mr. Watts quickly renewed his motion on the ground that the mere announcement was sufficient basis for a mistrial and Judge Callahan, with rising choler denied the motion.

"I now move," began Mr. Watts, but Judge Callahan cut him short, declaring that he "did not want to hear any further argument" and that the court would "not be tampered with." Twice later in the day the defense moved unsuccessfully for a mistrial because of comments by Mr. Hutson on the testimony of the Negro defendants.

Before the closing arguments began, the defense succeeded in reading into the record the testimony of Dr. R. R. Bridges, a physician who examined Victoria Price, the complaining witness, within an hour after she was taken from the freight train on which she says she was assaulted by a dozen Negroes.

Physician Contradicts Woman.

Dr. Bridges, a Scottsboro physician, was too ill to come to court, but he testified before Judge James E. Horton judge of Patterson's earlier trials that the woman's pulse and breathing were normal and that her body showed no sign of cuts and bruises with which she testified at this trial that she was covered.

The doctor had testified also that he found physical indications which Judge Callahan refused to permit the defense to prove might have been accounted for by events which happened in a hobo jungle in Chattanooga the night before Ruby Bates and Mrs. Price hoboed their way home to Huntsville with their escorts.

One of these, Lester Carter, testified today that he was with the girls aboard the freight train when a fight broke out between colored and white vagrants who were also on the train. It was immaterial, Judge Callahan ruled, whether he and Orville Gilley had spent the night with Ruby and Mrs. Price.

Later when Mr. Knight was extracting in detail from Carter the various stages of his wanderings from coast to coast, Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief defense counsel, protested. Judge Callahan held that the evidence was admissible. Mr. Leibowitz inquired why he had not been permitted to trace the movements of Victoria Price prior to the alleged attack and Judge Callahan threatened to cite him for contempt.

"I won't have insinuations that you were denied something that somebody else got," he shouted.

Carter was permitted to testify, however, that he overheard Mrs. Price urge one of the white hoboes while she was in jail at Scottsboro to pretend that he was her brother.

Carter said he had given up hobo life and was now a laborer for the Board of Education in New York.

Patterson on the Stand.

Patterson next took the stand. Over and over he denied that he had touched Mrs. Price or Ruby Bates, or that he had even seen any woman on the train. The white hoboes had been throwing stones at him and the "other colored," he explained, and he had fought with them "to make them stop bothering us."

Mr. Hutson, cross-examining the defendant, blustered and stormed about the court room, repeating the Negro's answers to his questions with obvious scorn and disbelief in his voice and manner. Sometimes he didn't wait for Patterson to answer one question before he asked another, and he frequently attributed words to the witness that the Negro had not uttered.

At last the local prosecutor fell back upon the record of the original trials at Scottsboro, although Mr. Leibowitz protested that the record was inadmissible on the ground that the Supreme Court of the United States had declared the whole proceeding illegal because the defendants were not adequately represented there by counsel.

Patterson said he did not remember testifying as the record indicated he had done when he was asked what he saw aboard the freight train on March 25, 1931. According to the transcript from which Mr. Hutson read, the Negro had testified that he saw all but three of the nine Negroes in custody attack the white girls. Later, reading from another part of the same record, Mr. Leibowitz showed that Patterson had testified just as he had today.

Four of Patterson's co-defendants followed him on the witness stand. They were Olin Montgomery, Willie Roberson, Ozie Powell and Andy Wright, Negro boys who have grown to manhood in jail. All denied participating in any attack on the white women.

Hutson Addresses Jury.

The State offered no rebuttal, and after a short recess Mr. Hutson began.

It was then that he made his appeal for the protection of womanhood, and he warned the jurors that when they had rendered their verdict and gone home they would have to face their neighbors. His voice rose to a crescendo as he choked back a sob evoked by his own eloquence in lauding the martyrdom of Victoria Price.

"She fights for the rights of the womanhood of Alabama," he shouted.

Mr. Watts, a prominent attorney in the home town of Mrs. Price made a calm and detailed analysis of the evidence submitted, asserting that the story told by Mrs Price had been refuted by the State's own witnesses "and contradicted by the physical facts in the case." Rape was a crime of secrecy, not one committed in broad daylight in full view of the public highway by a dozen men strangers to each other.

Introducing himself as a "friend and neighbor" from Madison County, Mr. Watts criticized the State for not placing Orville Gilley, an eyewitness of the alleged crime, on the witness stand, and remarked that he could not refrain from wondering why the State had left it for the defense to present medical testimony which was in the State's possession.

He too urged the jurors to weigh the evidence with common-sense, and in answer to Mr. Hutson's plea for the protection of womanhood appealed for "protection of the innocent."

"It takes courage to do the right thing in the face of public clamor for the wrong thing, but when justice is not administered fairly, governments disintegrate and there is no protection for any one, man or woman, black or white."

Mr. Knight, who had the last word for the prosecution, summed up briefly and with restraint, confining himself to the evidence and arguing that all the testimony submitted, save that of Patterson himself, tended to bear out the complainant's story.

Judge Charges the Jury.

Two hours were consumed by Judge Callahan in charging the jury and court did not recess until 9:30 P. M. The judge dwelt at length on the legal definition of the crime charged, on the differences between direct and circumstantial evidence and on the meaning of such terms as reasonable doubt.

He said that in weighing the testimony of Patterson and Victoria Price, the jurors might regard them as "interested" witnesses and consider that in deciding what weight to give it. Since the complainant was a white woman, he said, they must assume she did not yield willingly to the Negro defendant.

As Judge Callahan continued Patterson's face was glum and he slumped lower and lower in his chair. He perked up a little, however, when the court began reading a score or more specific charges, requested by the defense. These emphasized the fact that the defendant was presumed to be innocent until proved guilty and that he must be acquitted if the possibility of his innocence was compatible with reason.

After the reading of almost every one of these requested charges, Judge Callahan expressed a comment of his own such as:

"That's just saying what I said in another way," or "that just means all twelve of you have to agree on a verdict—well, of course you do."

At the end of the charge Mr. Watts entered an exception to all the comments from the bench on the requested charges. The defense lawyer also noted an exception to everything the court had said in his regular charge regarding the possibility of finding Patterson guilty of participating in "a conspiracy to commit a rape," and also to everything Judge Callahan said regarding the definition of such a conspiracy.

Mr. Watts pointed out that while the original indictments, which were quashed by the United States Supreme Court because of Jackson County's "Jim Crow" jury system, charged conspiracy, but that no such count was contained in the superseding indictment on which Patterson is being tried.

The judge made it clear that he did not expect the jurors who were locked up for the night to begin their deliberations until tomorrow morning, when the third trial of the twice convicted Clarence Norris is scheduled to get under way.

LARAMIE, WYO.
REPUBLICAN BOOMERANG

JAN 28 1936

The Scottsboro Case Again.

The latest development in the "Scottsboro case" demands an investigation more searching and impartial than it is likely to have in Alabama. There is something very, very smelly about the whole affair. In the first place, one needs no great familiarity with southern law enforcement to know that it is not customary for Negroes accused of offenses against white women to have easy access to deadly weapons. The wounded sheriff asserts another Negro gave Ozzie Powell the knife with which he is said to have slashed the officer. Powell's companion at first said the knife was found in the jail cell where they had been confined. In either event the officers were suspiciously careless.

The Scottsboro case has become a cause celebre because of a widespread doubt that the nine Negroes are guilty of the crime charged against them and a widespread certainty that a fair trial is impossible in the deep South. One of the women involved, Ruby Bates, has repudiated her original accusation and exonerated the defendants. Both she and Victoria Price are of such notoriously bad character that their testimony ordinarily would be given little weight on either side. Medical evidence leaves considerable doubt that any crime was committed.

Twice the supreme court of the United States has stayed the hand of southern justice. The day before the Powell incident a third jury had given Heywood Patterson a sentence of 75 years. Three-quarters of a century behind bars is a fairly stiff penalty. But in Alabama it must seem a trifling retribution to exact of a colored man suspected of molesting a white woman, however flimsy the proof of his guilt.

Sheriff Sandlin hints darkly that "white persons" incited Powell and Wright to try to escape. Perhaps he is not far astray. There is an honored institution in Latin countries known as "the law of flight." A political prisoner is taken to some conveniently isolated spot and invited to stake his life on his fleetness of foot. If he can outrun a rifle bullet he can have his freedom; if he fails he is regretfully reported to have been "killed while trying to escape." Is it wild fantasy to suggest that impatient Alabamans may have hit upon a similar device to forestall the dilatory courts?

New York World Telegram

JAN 25 1936

"GET IT OVER WITH!"

"DON'T go out and quibble over the evidence," roared the young prosecutor to an Alabama jury at the fourth trial of Haywood Patterson, one of the Scottsboro Negro defendants. "Say to yourselves, 'We're tired of this job,' and put it behind you. Get it done quick, and protect the fair womanhood of this great State!"

One of the jurymen called out:—"Let's come back tonight and get it over with!" They did, and Judge Callaghan sentenced Patterson to 75 years in prison.

From this, and from charges of bias hurled at the judge by the defendant's local counsel, it appears that the other defendants are to be tried in the same atmosphere of passion as has marked the other trials. Yesterday's shooting certainly will not lessen that passion.

These trials have stirred Alabama for nearly five years. Twice the United States Supreme Court has interceded in behalf of the "due process" which it said was denied the Negroes. We do not blame Alabama for wanting to "get it over with."

But this is not the way. Alabama may think she can put this ugly case behind her by sending all the defendants to the gallows or to prison for life. But unless she deals them justice—exact and impartial and free from race prejudice—the case will plague her, just as the Mooney case has plagued California for 20 years.

Justice cannot live in an air surcharged with violence and hate.

SAVANNAH, GA.
PRESS

JAN 29 1936

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION thinks Alabama juries and courts have been fair and patient:

For the fourth consecutive time an Alabama jury has convicted Heywood Patterson, one of the five negro defendants charged with rape in the so-called "Scottsboro case," that has been dragged through the courts now for nearly five years. Those who are most familiar with the facts in the case are convinced that the verdicts have been justified by the evidence, and it is time that outside meddlers should let Alabama attend to its own affairs. Public sentiment throughout the state is in accord with the verdicts of the juries and the sentences that have been imposed for the crime of which Patterson was convicted, and there is, naturally, resentment against the attitude of outsiders seeking to dictate to the state how it should dispense justice.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

5354

Alabama Looks Back

The United States supreme court had the power to compel Alabama to conform its jury system to the Constitution, but could not change its heart. The state remains obdurate and impenitent. Until the high court spoke, Alabama might have believed that keeping Negroes down justified any means of accomplishing it. But after being told by the highest authority that all alike must be called to jury service, good citizenship required it to obey the law in letter and in spirit.

We are slow to chide any man for feeling race prejudice. By its very nature, prejudice admits of attack neither by facts nor by logic. But prejudice within a court room is a violation of the holy of holies of our civilization.

The conduct of the trial of the first Scottsboro boy since the new indictment was so charged with bias that he might as well been judged under the old system as the new.

White men, for generations stretching all the way back to King John and the barons at Runnymede, worked and fought and died to create the code of relations upon which our country stands. Setting it aside in order to destroy one poor Negro is monumental folly. The guiltier he is, the more the law can afford to be meticulous in its procedure.

W. W. Callahan, the man, can think what he pleases about Negroes. But W. W. Callahan, judge presiding in a court of law in Decatur, Alabama, is custodian of the white race's most priceless heritage.

Judge Callahan accepted men to serve on the jury who admitted they were prejudiced. He must have felt that some animosity towards Negroes was to be expected in any normal white man. But he could not have felt that he was applying the supreme court's order of jury service for whites and blacks alike when he called the Negroes "boys" and required them to be examined outside the jury box regularly used by jurymen.

The Negro, Patterson, has only one life to lose. But Alabama forfeits judicial impartiality, the very house of refuge of today and tomorrow. Better far that it go ahead and kill the Scottsboro boys by violence, as it has already begun to do—for who ever heard of a handcuffed prisoner attacking an officer without cause—than to do them to death under the form of the law.

To us the marvel of the case is that not one man of that jury or of all attached to that court raised his voice in defense of the law as Alabama, through the supreme court, now knows the law to be. It is a Sodom that has within it so far not one good person to save it. The high court set Alabama right, but like Lot's wife, it looks back.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
~~NEWS~~
Times
JAN 25 1936

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"DON'T go out and quibble over the evidence," roared the young prosecutor to an Alabama jury at the fourth trial of Haywood Patterson, one of the Scottsboro Negro defendants. "Say to yourselves 'we're tired of this job' and put it behind you. Get it done quick, and protect the fair womanhood of this great state!"

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Justice can not live in an air surcharged with violence and hate.

New Orleans, La., Item
January 27, 1936

Scottsboro Shooting

IF THE shooting of that Scottsboro prisoner took place under the circumstances described by his guards, these are not subject to blame. Their story that he attacked them with a knife seems to us to be supported by the fact that one of them was cut; by the Associated Press report that the prisoner himself told reporters he had bought the knife and used it; and by the fact that if the guards were bent on murder the prisoner would scarcely be alive. On the face of the matter it would ordinarily be dismissed as one of those things which occasionally happen in police dealings with violent men.

The difficulty about it, from an Alabama point of view, is that so much of discredit has attached to the long and dismal sequence of events in this Scottsboro case, and so much prejudice has been aroused by it all over the country, that a good many will tend to disbelieve the official account of the business and to believe the worst that their own imaginations suggest. That is unfortunate for Alabama but not to be avoided in view of past events. The only good aspect of the shooting seems to be that the man was not killed, has been protected, and is likely to live.

Jailing of sharecroppers in Arkansas, persecution of farm-labor unionists in California, a high-smelling scandal of murderous police terrorism in Florida, and the confusion confounded of the Hauptmann case in New Jersey, all breed similar distrust of constituted authority. Most states manage to maintain a fair standard for their public justice but the Country presents too many deviations from the rule.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
January 28, 1936

"POOR ALABAMA"

Under the caption "Poor Alabama," The Baltimore Evening Sun discusses the latest in the series of unfortunate episodes that have characterized the "Scottsboro" case.

"At this distance," the comment begins, "all one can say confidently of the latest news story from Birmingham is that Alabama is ruined again." The Evening Sun seems to have a sympathetic understanding of the hopeless position this State is in as far as getting a hearing on any phase of the case is concerned.

Alabama and Scottsboro were the victims of circumstances over which they had no control in the first place. Had the train on which the crime occurred been traveling in the opposite direction it would have fallen to the lot of Chattanooga and Tennessee to handle the affair. And there is no reason to believe that the outcome would have been otherwise had that been the case.

The Evening Sun continues:

"To anyone who knows the South, there is a good deal of plausibility in the story told by Sheriff Sandlin of the shooting of Ozie Powell, one of the defendants in the Scottsboro case. According to the Sheriff, two Negroes, Powell and Roy Wright, attacked two officers in an attempt to escape and Powell cut Deputy Sheriff Blalock across the throat, whereupon Sandlin shot him down.

"The story may be true. At any rate, Blalock has a slash in the throat. But, true or not, it isn't going to be believed. Too much passion and prejudice have been aroused by the Scottsboro case to permit, henceforth, any cool, objective examination of anything connected with it. If an archangel came down from Heaven and swore to the truth of Sandlin's story, there are people who would still believe that the affair was an attempt to murder Powell; and to date there are no archangels in sight.

"Obviously, Alabama should henceforth guard this Negro as if he were her most precious possession; but that will do no more than prevent further damage to her reputation. It will not restore the loss she suffered when the shot was fired. The United States Supreme Sourt twice has branded Alabama trial courts as un-air, and once that is done anything will be believed about the luckless State."

It so happens that Alabama is guarding the Negro "as if he were her most precious possession." Gov. Bibb Graves has ordered that every possible precaution be taken to guarantee the safety of the defendants which is the policy the State has followed since the beginning. Significantly, however, all Associated Press dispatches remark that the "streets about the hospital being patrolled by the guardsmen are virtually deserted."

The latest episode was merely another in which this State had no other choice than to make the best of circumstances that were not of its asking. Such observers as The Evening Sun who try to maintain the impartial view may be assured of that.

Scottsboro, Ala., Age
January 30, 1936

"Scottsboro Negro" Stabs Deputy Sheriff

Ozie Powell Shot By Officer After His Attack In Escort Car

With Ocie Powell, one of the Negro defendants in the Scottsboro case, facing an early crisis at the Hillman Hospital, two investigations were completed and a third was still under way Sunday in connection with the attack by Powell on a Morgan County officer who was returning him to Birmingham Friday afternoon and the subsequent shooting of Powell by the Morgan County Sheriff.

Capt. Potter Smith, of the State Highway Patrol, who came to Birmingham shortly after the sensational attack and shooting Friday afternoon, concluded his investigation Sunday morning and shortly before leaving for Montgomery told officers here he would not make public his report until after it had been delivered to Gov. Graves.

About the same time Sunday, Samuel S. Leibowitz, New York, and Clarence L. Watts, Huntsville, counsel for the Scottsboro case Negroes wound up an investigation they initiated here Saturday and left for the East after issuing a prepared statement relating to what they said the Scottsboro Negroes, including Powell, told them about the attack.

Merriwether In Jail

A third investigation continued Sunday in Morgan County, where Sheriff J. Street Sandlin announced that Ernest Merrimether, a Negro boy, said to have furnished the knife, was still being held in the county jail at Decatur as the investigation continued in connection with the source of the weapon used by Powell Friday afternoon in slashing Deputy Sheriff Edgar Blalock of Morgan County.

It was Powell's attack on Blalock while the Scottsboro case defendants were being returned in an automobile from Decatur to the Jefferson County Jail that ended in the shooting of Powell by Sheriff Sandlin.

Blalock, who was cut about the neck was reported recovering rapidly Sunday from his injury.

Powell's condition Sunday was declared by attendants at the Hillman Hospital to be unchanged. The Negro was shot in the head by Sheriff Sandlin, the bullet penetrating the skull and piercing the brain at one point. Hospital attendants said the Negro had not yet reached a crisis. Powell, it was said, remained conscious most of the time Sunday.

The prepared statement issued by the defense attorneys, nearly five typewritten pages in length, gave accounts of statements the lawyers said had been made to them by several of the Scottsboro defendants.

'Put Him Out In Front'

The statement said that Powell told the two lawyers in reply to questioning that "the boys put me out in front and I most got killed."

Previously, statements had been published here relating to the interview between Liebowitz and Powell at the Hillman hospital, in which it was asserted that Powell told Liebowitz the attack had been planned by the Scottsboro defendants, in the jail at Decatur and added that if he had not used the knife on the officer "they would cut my throat when we got back to the Birmingham jail."

The Liebowitz-Watts statement added that in reply to question where the knife was obtained, Powell replied incohherently, "bought in Decatur" or "boy in Decatur."

The statement added, however, that Powell was in no condition to make a statement at the time.

Much of the statement of the defense attorneys was given over to an account of the efforts of the lawyers to get interviews with the Scottsboro prisoners, in the county jail and later to see Powell in the hospital.

The lawyers said they were told by Roy Wright that several weeks ago a deputy had urged them to tell the judge at Decatur they no longer desired Leibowitz or Watts as their counsel, and that if they did so, the judge would appoint new counsel for the Scottsboro defendants.

The statement added that Wright told them that just prior to the attack Blalock asked them why they had not done as they had been advised, and a moment later, after Powell had sassed Blalock the latter slapped him.

The lawyer's statement quoted Wright as saying that Powell then drew the knife and slashed the officer. The lawyers said Wright denied he also had a knife.

Probe Not Completed

Sheriff Sandlin, at Decatur, declared Sunday that his investigation of the manner in which Powell had obtained the knife had not been completed and that Merriwether was still under detention.

The latter was arrested Saturday after reports from Birmingham had involved him as the possible source of the weapon. Merriwether is a drug store delivery boy who delivered packages at the jail, and strongly denied the reports that he sold Powell the knife for a small sum.

Week-end developments in connection with the latest turn taken by the Scottsboro case included an announcement by Circuit Solicitor Melvin Hutson, Decatur, that the slashing of the officer and wounding of Powell would be investigated by the Morgan County Grand Jury Feb. 17 and the action of Adjt. Gen. John Coleman, dismissing a special detail of national guardsmen called into service Friday night for possible duty in guarding Powell at the Hillman.

Birmingham, Ala. News
January 25, 1936

Commendable Handling Of A Desperate Situation

"The thing I am proudest of is that none of those Scottsboro boys was killed." This was the comment of Sheriff J. Street Sandlin, of Morgan County, after the violent attempt of some of the Scottsboro defendants to escape—an attempt which resulted in the wounding of Deputy Sheriff Edgar Blalock by one of the Negroes, who somehow had armed himself with a knife, and the shooting of the deputy's assailant by Sheriff Sandlin.

The satisfaction expressed by Sheriff Sandlin over the fact that this bad matter was not made worse by the killing of any of the Negroes should be shared by all Alabamians. And of course everyone is thankful that neither of the two officers was seriously injured by the recalcitrant prisoners and that they were able to frustrate the attempt to escape.

This was a desperate situation, and the officers handled it most commendably. They displayed admirable coolness and self-control when they were suddenly and viciously attacked by two of the three defendants riding on the back seat of the car in which they were being brought to Birmingham from Decatur. Forced to defend themselves from two desperate prisoners armed with knives, they showed remarkable presence of mind in preventing an escape without a fatality on either side. In such excitement and under such provocation, less level-headed and conscientious officers in the place of Messrs. Sandlin and Blalock might have killed all three prisoners in what they would have considered self-defense. The officers' self-restraint was especially remarkable in view of the fact that Deputy Blalock's throat had been slashed at the very start of the difficulty.

That the officers' defense of themselves did not go so far as it might have is a fact which is bound to reflect credit everywhere on the character of Alabama officers and law and order in this state in general, and in the highly publicized Scottsboro case in particular.

At the same time, this latest act of violence on the part of some of the Scottsboro defendants should convince all their sympathizers everywhere that, whether these Negroes are guilty or innocent of the charge on which they are being tried, they are—or at least some of them are—vicious men, and not the lamb-like victims of circumstance which the more irresponsible and prejudiced champions of their cause have pretended to believe them to be. On more than one occasion before some of the prisoners have staged riots in jail.

These instances of violence, of course, have nothing whatever to do with the question of their innocence or guilt. But obviously they have done the defendants no good. The latest outbreak is particularly unfortunate, from their standpoint, coming as it did at a time when there seemed to be a change of attitude toward the disposition of their cases. The fact that the jury in the most recent trial imposed a prison sentence, instead of the death penalty which had been repeatedly imposed before, is indicative of a change in attitude.

But how did the Negroes get the knives, and how could the officers have been so negligent as not to have discovered the weapons before leaving Decatur? Such prisoners should be watched more vigilantly, and certainly they should be searched closely whenever they are removed from one point to another.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

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Sanford, Fla. Herald
January 28, 1936

Scottsboro Again

Speaking of the most recent difficulty arising out of the Scottsboro case, in which one of the defendants was shot in the head and an officer of the law slightly wounded, the Birmingham Age Herald wisely notes that it might easily have been worse. Considering pent up emotions involved, it would hardly have been surprising if when one of the Negroes drew a knife in an attempt to escape, and actually cut the throat of one of his guards, the entire group of defendants had been killed.

"However," says the Birmingham paper, "justice in Alabama should rate a bit higher than before. Officers transporting the defendants demonstrated a fine measure of self-control. Their conduct should be an answer to unjust charges that Southern officers are always quick on the trigger when Negroes accused of rape attempt to escape. If these guards had been only half as bad as some poorly informed persons think, this murderous attack would have resulted in the death of at least the two Negroes directly involved.

"The incident also serves to show the character of the defendants, if rioting in jails and other obstreperousness had not already proved that. While one can urge justice for them, no one in the light of their continued conduct can believe that the Negroes are peaceful, pure-minded boys. This attack, with their previous conduct while in jail, stamps them as reckless and vicious and without regard for law.

"Particularly heinous this attack seems just at this time when the defendants should have had reason to believe that they are making progress in their fight for freedom. The outcome of the fourth Heywood Patterson trial should have convinced all the defendants that their plight was not so desperate as it had been.

"But amid all the discussion about the latest development in this Scottsboro case, there will run a thread of wonder of how the two Negroes came into possession of knives and how officers could permit defendants in any capital case to become armed. It looks like somebody was careless here."

A LIVING DEATH

An Editorial

In a trial burning with hatred against the Negro people and desructive of every ideal which fair-minded people hold dear, Haywood Patterson, one of the nine Scottsboro boys, heard the fourth lynch verdict pronounced against him—a living death in a Southern torture-chamber for 75 years.

Judge "Speed" Callahan, representing the crudest and most vicious section of the Southern ruling class, did everything except step from his executioner's bench and hand a rope and faggot to the members of the lily-white jury.

Such filthy Negro-baiting, such open foul attacks against the constitutional rights of innocent citizens, have never before been seen in the annals of American judicial history.

Here are fascist methods in all their slime and barbarousness. The gangster head-choppers, Hitler and Mussolini, could not do worse. As "Speed" Callahan carried on his lynch-inspired antics, the fascist demons all over the world must have rubbed their yellow bellies with murderous glee.

This verdict is the shame of America.

It dooms Patterson not only to a living grave, but it seeks to destroy the fundamental liberties and freedom for which the American people have shed their blood and died.

It is the answer of the Southern lynch class to the united demand of the Negro people and their white supporters, for "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" for the most oppressed and terrorized section of the country's population.

The fate which awaits Patterson will be meted out to every person, Negro or white, who dares raise his voice for justice unless the broadest united action is organized to stop this legal lynching.

A storm of protests and mass meetings must wseep America!

A wave of united mass support greater than the country has ever before witnessed must be hurled to the support of the Scottsboro Defense Committee.

THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS SHALL NOT DIE!

Scottsboro Justice Again

New Republic

HAYWOOD PATTERSON is now under sentence of seventy-five years in prison, and stabbing and shooting are the aftermath of the new trial of the first of the eight Scottsboro Negro boys who are accused of raping two white girls in 1931. At three previous trials Patterson was convicted. Twice the United States Supreme Court has intervened to order new trials and once the trial judge set aside the verdict as being against the weight of evidence.

2-5-36

At the most recent trial in Decatur, Alabama, eight Negroes were included in the jury panel, in compliance with the Supreme Court order, but the prosecution excluded them from actual service on the jury. The entire trial, with the life of one human being directly at stake and the fate of seven others indirectly involved, was completed in exactly two days. Defense efforts to introduce medical and other relevant testimony were repeatedly denied. It is reported that Judge Callahan showed marked indications of impatience and hostility to the defendants, and the prosecuting attorney openly besought the jury not to "quibble over the evidence" but to "say to yourselves, 'we're tired of this job' and put it behind you. Get it done quick and protect the fair womanhod of this great state." To such a mentality as this, sending a man to prison for seventy-five years for a crime he did not commit may have seemed like actual leniency. Patterson's trial was interrupted while a panel of veniremen was chosen for the trial of the next defendant, and then all proceedings were abruptly and indefinitely suspended because a physician who examined the victims of the alleged attack in 1931 is now ill and unable to attend the trials. Meanwhile, Patterson's attorneys are preparing an appeal to higher courts on his behalf.

The defendants were ordered returned to jail at Birmingham for safe keeping. They were manacled and placed in three automobiles, on the rear seat of each car, with armed deputies in the driver's seat and convoys of armed state troopers and deputies riding both ahead of and behind the prisoners' cars. Ozie Powell, one of the defendants, had managed to get hold of a pocket knife. According to the story told by local authorities, Powell made a sudden break for freedom, drew his knife, slashed the neck of Deputy Sheriff Blalock on the seat in front of him and attempted to jump from the car. Sheriff Sandlin, in this version, reached for his gun, Powell sought to wrest it from him, and in the struggle the gun was fired and Powell was shot through the head

The story told by Roy Wright and Clarence Norris, who were shackled to Powell, differs sharply from this version. Aside from the obvious improbability of three handcuffed Negro boys attempting to escape when they were surrounded by a small army of deputies and troopers, it appears that Blalock had taunted, goaded and finally slapped Powell as the automobiles rolled along toward Birmingham. After the slap, Powell drew his knife and cut Blalock, and then yielded to the frantic pleas of his two fellow prisoners and dropped the knife on the floor of the car. Sheriff Sandlin stopped the car, got out, and Roy Wright says he opened the rear door, threatened to shoot all three of the unarmed, handcuffed Negroes and did shoot Powell through the head. The bullet was removed at a Birmingham hospital, and as this is written Powell is in a critical condition, with a slightly better than even chance for recovery.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
RECORD

JAN 23 1936

Shame Falls on Alabama

After five years, the public undoubtedly is sick of the Scottsboro case. And yet it cannot be evaded or glossed over by responsible citizens because it is an extreme example of the extent to which race prejudice perverts justice in many of our Southern courts.

The latest trial of Haywood Patterson—his fourth—begins with the evidence of prejudice on the part of the court stronger than in any previous case.

Judge William W. Callahan is apparently conducting the prosecution from the bench. Here are a few of Judge Callahan's rulings:

1. Denial of a change of venue, in spite of the fact that Decatur, where the trial is being held, is so imbued with race prejudice that no lawyer in the town will take the case, and no doctor will give routine medical testimony for the defense, for fear of losing their lives or at least their practice.

2. Admission of the testimony of a prison guard who said Patterson confessed the crime to him in 1934. There were writing materials in Patterson's cell, yet the guard never asked him to write the "confession" down. The guard made no notes. No other witness substantiated the "confession."

3. Refusal to admit in evidence a model train, used in all former trials, in spite of the fact that the conductor of the train testified it was an exact duplicate. The defense has witnesses prepared to show that the complaining witness, Victoria Price, was seen in an entirely different part of the train from where she said she was. Commenting on this vital testimony, Judge Callahan said, in the presence of the jury: "That strikes me as enough of that. We are magnifying things that are not particularly important."

4. After nine hours in what the New York Times describes as a "fetid courtroom" the State closed its case in a surprise move. Though it was after 5 P. M. and defense counsel were exhausted, Judge Callahan insisted that they begin presentation of their case immediately. Defense attorneys pointed out that their witnesses were not in the courtroom, because they had reasonable ground to expect the court to adjourn for the day before the defense case was called for. Judge Callahan insisted that they put the defendant on the stand as a first witness. The defense argued that they wanted to build up their case in an orderly manner and not begin with Patterson as their first witness. Judge Callahan stuck to his point, and Patterson was put on the stand.

5. Judge Callahan's attitude toward the defense was described, with apparent justification, as "irritable and impatient." In front of the jury, the Judge defended his conduct and in obvious anger denied a motion declaring the proceedings a mistrial.

That is how the latest Scottsboro trial is being conducted.

Alabama again stands shamed before the nation and the world.

Nashville, Tenn. Tennessean
January 27, 1936

A Matter of Justice.

The attack Friday on officers by two negro defendants in the Scottsboro case is the latest development in the sordid story of a state's difficulty in dealing justice through its courts.

For five years the Scottsboro case has been in litigation. It has been carried to the United States Supreme Court twice and each time death sentences imposed by Alabama courts have been reversed, once on the grounds that the negro defendants were without benefit of adequate counsel at the first trials in Scottsboro, and again in the ruling that they were deprived of their constitutional rights because negroes were "systematically excluded" from grand and trial juries in Alabama.

On numerous occasions the state guard has been called out to protect the negroes. Judge J. E. Horton of Alabama, set aside a death verdict against one of the defendants, holding the evidence was not sufficient.

The case has been seized upon by certain lawyers and organizations in the north and an effort made to set it up as a "cause celebre."

The publicity attendant upon the trials has damaged the progress of better race relations, not only in the immediate communities where they have been held, but elsewhere as well.

The South cannot take pride in this affair. Under the law, a defendant, though he be a negro, is entitled to adequate counsel. If that had been provided, this case would have been disposed of long ago—and forgotten. The question of innocence or guilt of these defendants is a matter for the courts to decide. If they were guilty of the charges against them it is highly improbable that a white jury in the South would have acquitted them no matter how numerous or expert their counsel might have been. If they were innocent, they were entitled to the chance to prove it and to obtain their freedom.

A mistake was made in not providing proper counsel for them and that was but the first in a whole series of mistakes which have made it increasingly difficult to settle the case on its merits.

Nothing but injustice to individuals and trouble for society can be expected when a court of law makes any concession to the mob spirit or to race prejudice.

Southern negroes must abide by laws made by white men and when they run afoul of the law they must submit to arrest by white officials and stand trial before white men's courts. They should be encouraged to expect to find justice in these courts.

When negroes learn that impartial justice can be had in the courts, there will be no excuse for meddlesome New York lawyers to come into the South to fight the battles of the negroes and to make their contribution to the fanning of race prejudice.

Until impartial justice is provided for them, there can be no satisfactory solution of the race problem.

Danville, Va., Register
January 26, 1936

THE MARTYR COMPLEX AT SCOTTSBORO

Against the credits of the Scottsboro case, which have been increasing, there must be charged a debit. One of the nine Negro defendants, excited by the agitation that has surrounded the case and no doubt suffering from a martyr complex, attacked one of the officers carrying him from Decatur to the Jefferson county jail. Until the evidence of this complication is available in more detail, it will be difficult to say to what extent it will affect the case. It will have the immediately grave effect of increasing tension which showed signs of lessening—both inside and outside the court house. There have been no brass bands around the trial court for some time, although its publicity has been constant. When the attack on the peace officer occurred, the trial of Haywood Patterson, who has become the chief defendant in the case, had just been completed. Instead of the death sentence previously given him he was sentenced to seventy-five years in the penitentiary. Since no one ever accused an Alabama jury of having any doubt about the value of capital punishment, the second verdict in the Patterson case may be taken to mean that some of the universal doubt that the defendants can be guilty of the charge against them, following the recanting of one of the principal witnesses, has at last reached Decatur.

If Alabama has bungled its case this new angle is probably an illustration of serious mistakes made by the defense. There have long been indications that the chief of defense counsel is temperamentally unfitted for his task. It is a case that required a balance that Mr. Leibowitz, for all his undoubted ability as a lawyer, has lacked. The Scottsboro case has been gaining despite the deep-lying difficulties that have stood in the way of justice. It is still probably a long road to travel. Yet Mr. Leibowitz has plainly failed at a critical juncture. Before any lawyer can manage his case successfully, he must first be able to manage the defendant.

The Scottsboro case deserved dramatization, but the work has often been poorly done. Here we see the evidence of that. It tends to round out a picture of trial as depressing, from whatever angle it is viewed, as any ever presented in America. Yet the case has made distinct contributions and has made it less likely that, under similar conditions, similar offenses could be committed in the name of justice.

Lynchings - 1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

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Tw Probes Completed, Third ied In Scottsboro Affray

Withheld By State Chief; Leibowitz Gives Out Statement

Advertiser
Jan 27, 1936

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Jan. 26.—(AP)—Two investigations were completed today in the affray in which a deputy sheriff was slashed and one of the nine negro defendants in the "Scottsboro case" was seriously wounded, but a third probe continued in Morgan County.

Deputy Sheriff Edgar Blalock, who was cut by Ozie Powell, the negro, was recovering at his home in Decatur from the severe slashing on his throat. The county hospital here reported Powell's condition "unchanged."

Capt. Potter Smith, of the State Highway Patrol, who has been making an investigation for the State, announced his report would be made to Gov. Graves in Montgomery tomorrow morning.

Capt. Smith said he had nothing to disclose prior to making his report to the governor.

Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief of counsel for the negroes, and Clarence L. Watts, of Huntsville, associate, left this morning after conferring with the negroes in jail and talking to Powell in the hospital.

Third Investigation

The third investigation was being pushed in Morgan County by Sheriff J. Street Sandlin, who said he had nothing to make public at present.

A negro boy, Ernest Merriwether, was held for investigation in Decatur in connection with Powell obtaining the knife.

The News today quoted Powell as telling Leibowitz when he visited him in the hospital yesterday, "We made it up at the Decatur jail."

The story said questions asked were inaudible, but the negro said, "We was going to have to be in jail anyway. . . . Leroy (Roy Wright) and the rest of them said if I didn't use the knife they would cut my throat when we got back to the Birmingham jail."

A statement in narrative form, Leibowitz and Watts recounted their visit here and quoted Roy Wright, Clarence Norris, and Powell, but said the latter was "in no condition to make a coherent statement."

Leibowitz's Statement

Leibowitz's prepared statement said of his visit to Powell with Watts:

"The boy slowly opened his eyes and turned his face slightly upward.

"Mr. Leibowitz asked, 'Do you know who this is?'

"He said, that's Mr. Chamlee' (George W. Chamlee, of Chattanooga), and rambled on unintelligibly.

Mr. Leibowitz then, 'What happened, Ozie,' and he said:

"'The boys put me out in front and I most got killed.'

"After some more questions which were not answered, Mr. Leibowitz asked where he got the knife and he said:

"'Bought in Decatur,' or possibly 'Boy in Decatur.'

"Thereupon, Mr. Leibowitz said: 'This man is in no condition to make a coherent statement.'

"Powell was in severe pain. His eyes were glassy; so we turned and left. We were in the room about two or three minutes."

The statement told of difficulty in obtaining an interview with the negroes in jail here, because of an order from the governor that no one was to question them.

Telephoned Judge

Chief Deputy Sheriff Charles McComb, the statement said, called Judge W. W. Callahan in Decatur, and then made another telephone call before permitting the attorneys to see them.

Roy Wright, the statement said, told them that en route to Decatur for arraignment several weeks ago a "deputy named Waldon (or Waldron) had told them to tell the judge "you don't want Mr. Watts and Mr. Leibowitz for your attorneys. The only thing those lawyers can do for you is to make more trouble for you."

Wright's statement said that the deputy told them if they would ask the court to appoint lawyers, Lieut.-Gov. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., would drop out and "it will not go so hard against you."

Just prior to the affray, Wright said, Deputy Blalock asked why they had not done as they were told, and during the exchange when they asserted they were satisfied, Powell talked back to Blalock, who slapped him.

Powell Drew Knift.

Wright, in his statement to the attorneys said Powell then drew his knife and slashed the deputy, dragging him and Norris from the seat, and denied either participated in the scuffle. He said he and Norris pleaded for their lives and Sheriff Sandlin did not shoot them, although he threatened to.

Except for Leibowitz and Watts, all visitors have been denied to the negroes in the jail here, and newspapermen have not been permitted to interview them since the governor's order.

NEGRO VENIREMEN APPEAR IN DECATUR

Alabama's First Are Shy When Called for Scottsboro Trial and 7 of 12 Are Excused.

JUDGE SEGREGATES THEM

Seats Them Outside the Jury Box—Qualifies White Jurors Despite Race and Case Opinions.

New York Times
1-21-1936

By F. RAYMOND DANIELL.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 20.—The opening of Haywood Patterson's fourth trial here today for an attack on Victoria Price, five years ago, was marked by an innovation in the selection of a jury to try him for his life.

For the first time since Reconstruction days, Negroes were on the panel of talesmen called from the cotton fields and textile mills hereabouts to mete out justice to a black man accused of a crime which stirs the Southern breast as murder and lynching seldom do.

Twelve of the 100 veniremen who answered when their names were called in the Morgan County court, over which Judge William Washington Callahan presided with steady sternness and occasional homespun witticisms, were Negroes.

Diffidently and uncertainly they took their places before the bench and with hands upraised swore along with their white fellow-citizens to weigh the evidence in the case and "a true verdict render" if they were chosen to sit in judgment on Patterson.

Negro Talesmen Seated Apart.

The Negroes did not presume to seat themselves in the jury box, even when they were called in the groups of twelve to face the questioning of the attorneys for the State and the defense.

Some chairs were placed for them alongside the jury box and in them they sat even wh[illegible] were vacant chairs in the jury box, which for three generations the dominant white citizen of Morgan County have kept more free of Negroes than the rolls on the Democratic party below the Mason-Dixon Line.

Once a stage-struck Negro, whose name was called at the head of a group of twelve, stumbled into the jury box and was about to seat himself when Judge Callahan, who a little earlier had denied a defense motion for a change of venue and had cut short an attempt by defense attorneys to oust the Lieutenant Governor, Thomas E. Knight Jr., from his rôle of prosecutor, called out sharply:

"Here boy, sit over there!"

The imperious index finger of the judge, who presided at the last trials of Patterson and Clarence Norris, saved from death in the electric chair by Supreme Court intervention, pointed at the extra chairs.

The Negro docilely left the jury box and seated himself in the chair the judge had indicated, and a white share-cropper took the vacant swivel chair which the State provides so that jurymen may hear the evidence in criminal and civil cases with a modicum of discomfort.

Seven of the twelve Negroes on the panel were excused for one reason or another, leaving five to be eliminated from the jury by peremptory challenge tomorrow when the task of selecting twelve men to try Patterson will be concluded.

One colored man, who described himself as a laborer, said that he could not serve because his "boss" had shot himself in the foot while hunting last week and had to have his leg amputated. Without him, the Negro said, there would be none to look after the business. The excuse did not suffice, but later the Negro talesman recalled a conscientious scruple against capital punishment and was sent home.

Two other colored men were excused from service on the jury when it was revealed that they were over the legal age limit of 65. They left the court room looking anything but regretful. The Negro janitor of the court house, a colored teacher and two others found varied but valid reasons why they could not serve.

Only five Negroes remained as potential jurors when at ten minutes before 6 o'clock, despairing of completing the selection of a jury tonight, Judge Callahan adjourned court until 8:30 A. M. tomorrow.

White Men Willing to Serve.

A handful of white men had been weeded out as conscientious objectors to capital punishment, holders of fixed opinions and members of juries which in the past have weighed the evidence against the Negroes involved in the Scottsboro cases, and found them guilty only to have the United States Supreme Court order new and fairer trials for them.

There was no apparent wish on the part of the white talesmen to avoid the duty of citizens to perform jury service.

Not one of the forty-eight veniremen examined during the day admitted that he held an opinion so fixed that it could not be removed by controverting evidence; not one conceded that he had discussed the Scottsboro case, and not one would confess that he held any projudice against the colored race.

Some of the prospective jurors were relatives by blood or marriage of men who previously had heard the evidence for and against the Negroes and found them guilty, condemning them to death in accordance with Alabama law which sets that penalty for rape. Some had sat through the last trials as spectators, hearing testimony and arguments, and one had served on the jury which convicted Norris a little more than two years ago.

Throughout the examination of the talesmen, Samuel Leibowitz, chief of defense counsel whose attacks on the Southern jury system have made him hated as bitterly as the original Communist sponsors of the defense, sat silently beside his Southern associate, C. L. Watts of Huntsville, taking no part in the choosing of jurors.

Judge Permits Formed Opinions.

Mr. Watts stressed three main points. He wanted to assure himself that the talesmen would hold out for acquittal as long as they entertained a "reasonable doubt" of Patterson's guilt; that they would give no added weight to the testimony of the white woman accusing the Negroes than to other evidence, and that they had no fixed opinion which would influence their verdict.

Once a talesman informed the defense attorney that he had formed an opinion prejudicial to the defendants as a result of having been present when the lawyers for the defense and prosecution summed up their cases at the last trial here.

Mr. Watts challenged for cause, but Judge Callaghan overruled the challenge, saying that "it would take a very dumb man not to get some kind of impression," and adding that the test of the venireman's qualifications was whether the opinion he had formed could be laid aside in favor of the evidence when he took his place as a juror.

Similarly, Judge Callahan informed the prospective jurors that belief in the inferiority of the Negro race was no barrier to service on the jury so long as the venireman holding it was capable of refusing to let his private convictions interfere with his judgment of the evidence.

In excusing a juror who had served previously in the trial of one of the Scottsboro cases, Judge Calahan spoke of his respect for the United States Supreme Court,, which reversed him on the last two trials held before him.

"I have a great deal of respect for the Supreme Court," he said, "but while they have held that prior service on a jury is no barrier to subsequent service in the same case, I think I shall excuse the venireman."

State Stresses Death Penalty.

Throughout the examination of the talesmen, the State, in the person of Melvin Hutson, Morgan County Solicitor and successor to Wade Wright, who achieved international notoriety with his plea to a local jury to "show them that Jew money can't buy Alabama justice," asked but one question.

That was whether the prospective juror had any scruples against administration of the death penalty in cases where rape had been proved. No talesman had any objection to this part of the Alabama statutes.

The trial did not get under way until afternoon. Scheduled to open at 8:30 A. M., it was delayed by storms which made the ninety miles of highway between here and Birmingham, where the defendants have been incarcerated, extremely dangerous for fast automobile traffic.

The defendants, guarded by half a dozen members of the newly-created State highway patrol, were nearly four hours late in arriving.

Refusal of Change of Venue.

In the presence of all seven of the defendants, Judge Callahan denied the motion of the dfense for a change of venue to a county in which the chances for a fair and impartial trial were declared to be more propitious.

Fifty affidavits had been offered by the defense, contending that a fair trial was impossible here and sixty-four expressing the opposite view had been presented by the State, the judge said.

Nearly all of the defense affidavits, he said, contained "expressions of opinion without the facts on which to base it." Twenty-four of them, he added, almost identical, were made by persons who plainly were not residents of Alabama, but who alleged that they had visited the State without stating when or where. The affidavits, he said, failed to say whether they had talked to residents of Morgan County about the case.

"Mostly, they are bald assertions, copied obviously from publications about the case from some other section of the country," the judge continued.

Negro Is Saved From Chair By Jury At Decatur

Montgomery, Ala
1-24-36

Montgomery Advertiser

Heywood Patterson Gets 75 Years For Attack In Scottsboro Case Retrial

Appeal Is Planned

Verdict Returned By Jury Deliberating 8 Hours; Norris Trial Launched

DECATUR, ALA., Jan. 23. — (AP) — A sentence of 75 years' imprisonment was imposed on Heywood Patterson, one of the nine negro defendants in the "Scottsboro case," by a Morgan County jury today in his fourth trial of charges of attacking Mrs. Victoria Price aboard a freight train in Jackson County nearly five years ago.

The verdict was returned by a jury that had deliberated eight hours, but the verdict was delayed while another jury was struck to try Clarence Norris, another of the negroes, tomorrow on the same charge.

Patterson three times before, twice in the same court room here, had heard juries return verdicts sentencing him to death in the electric chair, but each time he was saved, once by a trial judge and twice by the United States Supreme Court.

Mrs. Price victim of the alleged attacks March 25, 1931, said of the verdict, "I don't think it was enough punishment."

Appeal Planned

Samuel S. Leibowitz, of New York, chief of defense counsel, announced that an appeal would be taken from the verdict and commented, "It is the first break we have gotten. We'll fight now until hell freezes over."

The lawyer said Patterson's only comment on the verdict was, "I had rather die than spend another day in jail for something I didn't do."

Patterson was stoical as he has been in the past while the verdict was being read by John Green, clerk of the court.

The jury's verdict read, "We, the jury find the defendant guilty, as charged and fix his punishment at 75 years' imprisonment." But it was amended by Judge W. W. Callahan to read "75 years in imprisonment in the State penitentiary."

Formal sentence was deferred, and probably will not be passed until the trials now under way are completed. Trials of Charlie Weems and Andy Wright have been set for next week.

The jury reported ready shortly after 4 p.m., and filed into the court room at 4:30 p.m., but were locked up again until the striking of the jury to try Norris had been completed.

As the 12 men who tried Patterson filed into the court room, the new jury was led out and locked up until the verdict was read and the court room cleared.

The report from the jury came with surprising suddeness, as most of the spectators had believed that it probably would be tomorrow before a verdict was returned, and many expressed a belief that a mistrial might result.

Negroes Off Jury List

"Of the seven negroes drawn from the Norris trial two were excused for objections to capital punishment, one because he was more than 65 years of age, the maximum for jurymen under Alabama law, and the other four were struck in selecting the jury.

The jury for the Norris trial is composed of 10 farmers, a merchant, and a shipping clerk. The jurors are:

Ralph Aldridge, farmer, Danville; James A. Hendrix, farmer, Lacey Springs; Nelson A. Norris, farmer, Hartselle; Shirley H. Moore, farmer, Hartselle; W. E. White, farmer, Danville; William E. Irvin, farmer, Somerville; Kirby B. Holland, farmer, Decatur; Frank Reeves, merchant, Hartselle; J. H. Sanders, farmer, Lacey Springs; Cooper Thomas, farmer, Lacey Springs; Samuel H. Thomason, shipping clerk, Decatur; Wise Tyler, farmer, Lacey Springs.

The selection of the jury was completed after a day in which defense counsel questioned each prospective juryman at length, stressing whether he had discussed the case and comments he had heard.

One question Clarence L. Watts, of Huntsville, defense attorney, repeatedly asked was, "Have you heard anyone say that the State of Alabama could not afford to turn them (the defendants) loose at this time?"

Every venireman denied having heard such a remark. One venireman said he had heard a "good deal of discussion," and in reply to a question from Watts as to whether these persons had said the negroes should be electrocuted said some of these had said, "If they was guilty they ought to be."

Norris Trial Starts

Preliminaries for Norris's trial were cleared this afternoon, and Mrs. Price was expected to take the stand as the first State witness to tell a jury for the ninth time her story of alleged events on the freight train in Jackson County.

Mrs. Price testified in the four original trials in Scottsboro in April, 1931, and has testified in four trials here.

Her companion on the hobo trip when she charges she was attacked by a group of negroes was Ruby Bates who appeared in the first trial here after a change of venue from Jackson County and repudiated her former testimony. In that trial she said she was not attacked.

A possibility of a delay in the start of Norris's trial appeared for a time with announcement that Luther Morris, one of the witnesses, might be unable to attend court because of critical illness of a child of his. Attorneys discussed the admission of the transcript of his testimony in the other trial in place of his personal appearance.

Norman Thomas Comments On Patterson's Sentence

NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—(AP)—Norman Thomas, former Socialist candidate for president and one of the leaders of the Scottsboro defense movement, tonight said the 75-year sentence given Heywood Patterson at Decatur, Ala., "is still a decision growing out of popular hysteria."

"It is better than death," he said, "because it gives us more time to work on the defense, but it is still a decision growing out of popular hysteria. It is not supported by evidence."

Defense Committee Calls Conviction An 'Outrage'

NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—(AP)—The Scottsboro Defense Committee tonight issued a statement calling the conviction of Heywood Patterson at Decatur, Ala., "an outrage."

"The conviction is an outrage," the statement said, "but does not come as a surprise to those persons who have watched the proceedings at Decatur, Ala. The atmosphere in which the trial was conducted was dominated by a cold and deliberate effort toward but one conclusion, the condemnation of innocent youth regardless of all evidence.

"It is an injury and must be a grave concern to the people of Alabama no less than to those of all America. The sentence of 75 years is no more lenient than a death sentence. . . .

"Needless to say, this committee and all the people who are supporting it will continue to conduct the defense with redoubled vigor and all the resources we can command."

SCOTTSBORO CASE PLEA IS PREPARED

Montgomery Advertiser

Final Move For Change Of Venue Is Stated At Decatur This Morning

Montgomery, Ala

DECATUR, ALA., Jan. 19—(AP)—Plans to carry into court tomorrow a final move for change of venue for the nine negro defendants in the Scottsboro case were completed by attorneys tonight.

The defense counsel is seeking to shift the impending trial from Morgan to Jefferson or some other county except Jackson, in which Scottsboro is situated.

Last week when the state presented a rebuttal to the defense motion for change of venue, Judge W. W. Callahan said he would rule tomorrow, reserving his decision until the defendants appear in court.

The move for change of venue was similar to a defense motion previously denied, in which transfer of the case of Federal Court was asked on allegations that a "fair trial" could not be obtained here, due to "prejudice and fixed opinion."

If Judge Callahan denies the motion, Haywood Patterson, three times sentenced to death, will be called to trial immediately, thus launching resumption of trials in the five-year-old case.

The negroes are charged with attacking Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates, Huntsville, Ala., mill workers, on a freight train in Jackson County March 25, 1931.

Patterson and six other of the defendants entered pleas of innocence to indictments charging attack on Mrs. Price when arraigned here Jan. 6.

They also were indicted for attacking Ruby Bates, who in April 1933 repudiated testimony given in the original trial at Scottsboro in April, 1931, that she was attacked.

Samuel S. Leibowitz of New York, defense counsel chief, and Clarence Watts, Huntsville attorney recently brought into the case by the Scottsboro Defense Committee, were here tonight.

Also present was the chief defense witness, Lester Carter, one of six white men put off the train, and whose story told at Stevenson, Ala., resulted in the train being stopped at Paint Rock, where Mrs. Price and Ruby Bates allegedly told of being attacked.

Secrecy shrouded plans to transfer the negroes here from jail in Jefferson County (Birmingham) where they have been held most of the five years the case has been pending in court.

Except for attention of attorneys and newspapermen, there appeared to be little interest in resumption of the cases.

Lynchings -1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama.

5357

Scottsboro Legal Processes Geared To High Speed By Judge; Patterson Denies Guilt

Victoria Price Repeats Charges For Thirteenth Time; No Soldiers To Guard Boys This Time

Journal & Guide
Norfolk, Va

Exclusive Scottsboro Wire Bulletins

1-25-36

By ALBERT L. HINTON
Journal and Guide City Editor

EXTRA!!

DECATUR, Ala.—Ozize Powell, Andy Wright and Engene Williams took the stand after dinner recess Wednesday as defense witnesses. All deny any part in the alleged attack on Victoria Price and stated they saw no women on the train. The defense rested its case at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday (3:30 Norfolk time). The arguments to the jury began late Wednesday, with Prosecutor Melvin Hudson making the opening address for the state. The case will probably go to the jury Thursday, January 23.

DECATUR, Ala.—There was no sign of Ruby Bates in the courtroom here or any confirmed information of her presence in the town to midafternoon Wednesday. She is now a defense witness, having first repudiated her original charges in April, 1933.

DECATUR, Ala.—The case of Haywood Patterson, begun Monday, was expected to go to the jury late Wednesday afternoon. He denied Wednesday that he had ever confessed his guilt to a prison guard in Montgomery.

DECATUR, Ala.—The lineup for the famous five-year-old case is as follows: for the defense—Samuel Leibowitz, of New York City, and C. L. Watts, of Huntsville, Ala.; for the state—Thomas E. Knight, lieutenant governor, special prosecutor; Melvin Hudson, H. D. Bailey, solititors of Morgan and Jackson Counties, respectively; and T. S. Lawson, assistant attorney general of Alabama.

DECATUR, Ala.—The crowd attracted by the trial of Haywood Patterson was so great that it could not be accommodated even in the large Morgan County courtroon. Those unable to be inside milled around the spacious halls of the building and in the streets outside.

DECATUR, Ala.—Lester Carter, Ruby Bates' boy friend on the fateful freight train ride, testified Wednesday for the defense as he had done previously in 1933 and 1934.

DECATUR, Ala.—Albert L. Hinton, Guide city editor covering the trial exclusively for this newspaper, met with a slight accident Saturday near Jonesboro, Tenn., en route here. Snow and sleet delayed him and forced him to detour to Decatur by way of Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Scottsboro, Huntsville, and Athens, Alabama. He arrived Monday, having left Norfolk by automobile Friday morning.

DECATUR, Ala.—(By Wire)—The moot question of discrimination against Negroes as jurors in this state, finally decided against Alabama by the United States Supreme Court and resulting in the placing of the names of Negroes in the Morgan County grand jury rolls, failed absolutely to bring about the actual service of a colored man on the jury trying Haywood Patterson for his life for the fourth time for his alleged participation in mass attacks on two hoboing white girls.

Twelve Negroes were on the panel drawn to try Patterson, best known of the Scottsboro boys, but all were excused "for cause" or struck without explanation under the right of preemptory challenge. Since "strikes" are made by number, it was impossible to tell which side actually eliminated the colored men, but it was not believed the defense would have struck them—having so staunchly raised the issue of Negro jury service.

NO SURFACE FEELING

On the surface there was no evidence of the usual high feeling against the boys, and the activities in court and in the city proceeded with little indication that the world-celebrated case was once again in the courts of Decatur.

Unlike the two previous trial series and the first one at Scottsboro, no National Guardsmen are on duty, but only several state policemen.

The only likelihood of an open breach of the peace by the populace sems to lie in the scant possibility of a verdict of not guilty. Many surmise what would happen then, but none can be certain.

RUSHING PROCEDURE

In the 1934 trials presided over by Judge W. W. Callahan, who is again in charge, the nickname of "Speed" was given the jurist. The speed with which he is pushing the present trial series to a conclusion bids fair to set some kind of record or other for legal dispatch in disposng of such matters.

His conduct was such Tuesday that Attorney C. L. Watts, of Huntsville, Alabama, serving for the first time with the defense staff, charged in open court that Judge Callahan was showing an unfair lack of patience in his remarks concerning the "unimportance" of certain defense testimony.

Attorney Watts moved for a mistrial because of the Judge's remarks, but was overruled. In the meantime, the court offered to "rectify" any hurtful thing said or done, and thereupon instructed the jury to disregard the argument which had ensued between the court and defense counsel.

The trial of Patterson got underway Monday following the denial by Judge Callahan of a second motion by the defense for a change of venue, and was marked Monday and Tuesday by abbreviated testimony similar to that which had featured the two previous trials series here, with Victoria Price repeating her lurid charges, Patterson denying them, considerable fiery cross-examination, and the offering of directly contradictory testimony by Mrs. Price and an eye-witness to the arrest of the boys at Paint Rock, Ala., on Mr ch 25, 1931.

Bad roads, due to the severe winter weather which is general over the state, delayed the arrival of the defendants here Monday. Patterson's trial, with a jury of ten white farmers, a carpenter, and one unemployed man, did not get underway until early Monday afternoon.

The state troopers reported that the highway between here and Birmingham, where the boys were in custody, was almost impassable in spots because of ice and packed snow.

Journal & Guide
Norfolk, Va
1-25-36

OTHER CASES SET

Charlie Weems and Andrew Wright, two of the nine defendants in the Scottsboro cases, will be tried next week. Judge Callahan fixed Monday, January 27, as the date of Weems' trial and Thursday, January 30, as the deadline when Wright must face a jury which will determine whether or not he is to die. They have not been re-tried since they were convicted at Scottsboro in April, 1931.

Clarence Norris, who has twice been sentenced to death in the electric chair, at Scottsboro and here under Judge Callahan in 1933, was already scheduled to go on trial on Thursday, January 23.

SPEEDY SCHEDULE

The trial schedule for these four indicates that Judge Callahan does not intend to devote over three days to the case of each youth. This is more speed than has been shown except at the original mass trials at Scottsboro.

Under Judge James Horton in the first Decatur trial series in March-April, 1933, the hearing of Patterson's case took a full week, with another full week being devoted to the arguments on the jury question before his trial began.

Judge Horton later reversed Patterson's conviction, returned on Palm Sunday, and was then discharged from further duty in the Scottsboro case and later defeated for re-election to the Circuit Court bench.

PLEAD NOT GUILTY

Judge Callahan set the dates for the Weems and Wright trials Tuesday in the midst of the Patterson trial, which at that stage itself bid fair to set some sort of speed record.

Both Weems and Wright were arraigned on January 6 before Judge Callahan and entered pleas of not guilty to indictments charging them with criminal assault upon Mrs. Price, principal state's witness, who charges that six boys of the nine riding on the freight train between Stevenson and Paint Rock, Alabama, March 25, 1931, raped her.

Judge Callahan told the two accused youths Tuesday that a special venire of 35 jurors had already been drawn, and that an additional 65 would be summoned from which a jury of 12 would be selected.

YOUTHS HANDCUFFED

He instructed the sheriff to serve copies of the indictment on the two boys, together with the jury lists, n.t later than a full day before their actual trial dates.

Both youths were brought into court, handcuffed together, from the rickety Morgan County jail adjacent to the courthouse, and were led away in the same manner.

Neither appeared to be particularly disturbed about what might be in store for them next week. Both entered the courtroom flanked by two armed court deputies and two members of the Alabama highway patrol (state troopers).

Incidentally, the several members of the highway patrol present, were the only guards on hand as six of the defendants in the celebrated cases were brought from Birmingham jail Monday.

CONTRADICTS HER

Mrs. Price, on whose testimony the state of Alabama depends for convictions—now that Ruby Bates has repudiated her original charges and exposed the allegations as a frameup—was seen attempting to run away from the station at Paint Rock, it was testified by Percy Ricks, fireman on the ill-fated freight train and the only Negro witness either for the prosecution or the defense examined Monday or Tuesday.

This testimony was radically different from the version recited by Mrs. Price when she took the stand Tuesday morning as the initial and star prosecution witness.

Mrs. Price testified that she was raped by six of the nine boys on the freight train—in less time than ten minutes—while it was traveling between Stevenson and Paint Rock, and that when she and Miss Bates alighted from the train after the reputed mass attack, she fainted and knew nothing more until she awoke in a doctor's office, where she was carried for examination within an hour.

Repeated cross-examination by Attorney Samuel Leibowitz, brilliant veteran of three Scottsboro trial series covering four hearings, and Attorney Watts failed to shake her story, in which she pointed her finger at Patterson as the boy who struck her over the head with a revolver and then attacked her while another of the defendants held a knife to her throat.

THIRTEENTH RECITAL

The state's star witness told again the story that she has already repeated thirteen times. She swore that she was struck over the head by Patterson and knocked down, that the overalls she was wearing and her undergarments were forcibly torn off, that one of the defendants held a knife on her throat while another assisted in holding her as Patterson committed his assault.

She told the court and jury that her first hint of trouble came when she saw the nine colored boys climb over the end of the gondola (flat) car in which she was, yelling and firing pistols in the air.

Before the jury composed mostly of farmers, the woman whose name has emblazoned the front pages of the press of the entire world, directly accused Patterson of being one of the attackers.

At times obviously nervous and for the most part apparently defiant as she was cross-examined, Mrs. Price declared on direct examination, which was conducted by H. D. Bailey, solicitor of the ninth judicial district and the original prosecutor of the boys, that she and Miss Bates caught a freight train at Huntsville, Alabama, 40 miles from here, on March 24, 1931, the day before the alleged mass attack, and went to Chattanooga.

The following day, she related, they climbed aboard a freight train for the return trip to Huntsville. It was shortly after the train left Stevenson that the Scottsboro boys climbed aboard the train, she said, and shouted—in her words—"All right, you s--s of b--s, all of you unload!"

The witness testiifed further that both she and Miss Bates had previously been riding on a tank car but later changed to the gondola near the train caboose.

As the boys climbed aboard, she continued, they began to beat the several white boys who were also on the car and to throw them off, after which the wholesale attack occurred.

Mrs. Price was asked on cross-examination if she knew Jack Tiller. She said "yes," but denied that he accompanied her and Ruby Bates on the freight train trip.

She also said she did not know Lester Carter, who the defense alleges—and who by his own testimony at the more recent trials—accompanied her and her companion at the time.

CITES LOOPHOLES

Attorney Watts sought to show loopholes in her answers to questions by reading the record of previous trials, and then questioned the witness at length concerning her physical condition and bruises, scratches and cuts she said were on her body as a result of the attack, but which a doctor has testified he did not find.

It was on cross-examination that she said the mass attack did not consume ten minutes.

But this testimony was radically different from that told by Ricks. He said that when the train stopped at Paint Rock for coal and water he climbed out of the engine cab and onto the top of the tender and saw the two women running away from the coal gondola.

They were surrounded, he said, before they could get away. This obviously was at variance with Mrs. Price's testimony that she fainted on alighting from the train, and gave credence to the defense claim that the girls were fearful of arrest and sought to escape, and when this failed hollered "rape" to cover up their own offenses.

On cross-examination by Lieutenant Governor Thomas E. Knight, Jr., special prosecutor, Ricks said he saw only one of the boys scramble out of the car. A posse was awaiting to arrest the boys for fighting with a gang of white boys on the train.

HAVING HARD TIME

At a previous trial here, the record shows that the girls said the accused boys leaped over their heads from a box car, but by their own testimony and the railroad records the car they were in was at least three or four gondolas from the nearest box car and a good distance from the caboose.

It was expected that Patterson's case would be given the jury some time Wednesday.

Throughout the Patterson trial the defense was having tough sledding, almost each of its objections to some testimony or procedure being overruled.

Once again the name of Haywood Patterson flashed across the front pages of the nation's newspapers Wednesday to take the limelight as the most important figure in the day's news.

Taking the stand in Morgan County court at 10:30 Wednesday morning, the 22-year-old youth on trial for his life for the fourth time took the stand to deny categorically that he attacked Mrs. Price as she charged; or that he made a confession to Obie Golden, Gilby Prison guard while an inmate of the death house there on Nov. 22, 1934, as Golden testified Tuesday afternoon; or that he assaulted Mrs. Price in any way or touched her.

The defendant also denied firing a gun as she charged, but admitted, as he has all along, that there was a fight between him, other Negroes, and some white boys traveling on the train.

He told the court he left Chattanooga aboard the freight train with Andy Wright, Roy Wright, and Eugene Williams. Patterson's direct examination was conducted by Leibowitz, while Hudson handled the cross-examination.

Patterson also testified he never previously was convicted of any crime in denying the charge of Golden in reference to the oral confession Golden said Patterson made to him.

He stoutly denied that he at any time talked to the guard and that at times he even refused to talk to prison officials. He also denied that he told Golden that he was guilty and was willing to "take what's coming to me."

The defendant on cross-examination testified that statements attributed to him while at Kilby Prison regarding the number of girls raped, were absolutely untrue. He said he was in prison about two years before he saw Golden.

SAVED GILLEY'S LIFE

At one time during the freight train fight with white boys, Patterson said, he pulled Orville Gilley back on the car in which the fight was taking place and prevented his being killed. He testified that at the time he did not know the other colored boys besides the Wright brothers and Williams who participated in the fight.

It has been testified that Gilley was in the car at the time of the alleged attacks—cowed and unable to aid the girls.

Patterson said he was not even aware that there were white women on the train and did not see Victoria Price until he was taken to Scottsboro after being arrested by posse at Paint Rock.

Patterson was on the stand for one hour and five minutes.

Two motions for a mistrial, presented by the defense, following the one Tuesday growing out of defense objections to the judge's remarks, were offered at the beginning of proceedings Wednesday, but were overruled.

Doctor Bridges, the Scottsboro doctor who examined the girls and found no evidence of having been beaten and attacked within an hour after the train was stopped, was absent on account of illness. He was to be a defense witness.

His testimony contradicting Mrs. Price's statement concerning her physical condition was admitted through the record of Patterson's 1933 trial before Judge Horton, but only after bitter objections by Lt. Governor Knight.

Dr. Bridges testimony said that the girls' pulses were normal and that their respirations were also normal.

CARTER ON STAND

Patterson's testimony Wednesday was bolstered by that of Lester Carter, who testified that he and Orville Gilley were aboard the freight train with Ruby Bates and the state's star witness, Mrs. Price; that a fight ensued when seven white boys threw small rocks continuously at the 12 or 15 colored boys on the train between Chattanooga and Stevenson.

Carter told the jury he and Gilley were invited to participate in the fight and when he attempted to climb into the fight car one of the colored boys made a "pass" at him and he was forced off the train.

NONE THROWN OFF

He denied any white boys were thrown off. Five of them got off, he said. Later, in Scottsboro, he related, Victoria Price admitted she was trying to escape when officers from the posse surrounded the train at Paint Rock and quoted her as saying:

"There were so damn many people there we couldn't get away. I didn't know there were so many people in the whole state of Alabama."

Olin Montgomery, another of the nine accused youths, followed Patterson on the witness stand. His testimony was substantially the same as Patterson's.

LANCASTER, PA.
New Era
JAN 20 1936

The Blot Of Race Hatred

The Scottsboro case, in which a group of Alabama Negroes has been battling in the courts for several years to defend themselves against a heinous charge, has developed into an international news story. It adds another to the long list of unsavory incidents that puts the United States to shame in the eyes of other nations.

Race hatred in the South is deep rooted in the hearts of her people. It will never be eliminated by legislation, and it defies the influence of educational attack. After long years of condemnation, in which not a few residents of the section involved have participated, it remains in substance as vigorous as ever. At any moment it may burst out in bloody violence to defy all of the forces of law and order.

In the clutch of its frenzy, bloodthirsty individuals forget that the Negro is a human being; that however horrible his crimes against society may be, he has the right to his day in court, which the law grants to all, regardless of creed, or color. And even in the courts themselves the colored man is sometimes deprived of the protection to which he is entitled.

Continuance of this race war does injury to both the whites and blacks, not only in the South, but measurably to the entire country. Foreigners, in whose press, the facts are often exaggerated and distorted, regard this phase of our social conduct as barbarious. And are they not correct?

Alabama.

5358

Lynchings - 1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Ruby Bates, Heroine Of Scottsboro Case, Goes Unrecognized At Dance

Journal and Guide
2-29-36 Norfolk, Va.

NEW YORK CITY—Ruby Bates, noted Scottsboro figure who rescinded her charges in 1933 dressed in an inexpensive green dress covered by a sweater, moved about in the background of the Scottsboro Defense Ball at the Savoy Friday night with her constant girl companion. She was unrecognized by the 50 or so colored patrons who mingled and danced with many of the five hundred odd white patrons at the affair, staged by the League for the Defense of Political Prisoners.

Roy Wilkins of the NAACP, Benjamin Davis of the Daily Worker, James W. Ford of the Communist Party, Roberta Bosely, president of the James Weldon Johnson Poetry Guild; Gene Holmes, Columbia University post graduate student, and Angelo Herndon, with a white companion, were a few of the more prominent colored guests, though there was certainly no color line.

As with most major Scottsboro affairs here, whites from downtown and all over the city dominated the affair. For some reason few colored persons are ever present at such affairs.

LIVES IN HARLEM

Ruby Bates, who lives in Harlem on Edgecomb Avenue, successfully dodges publicity. At these affairs she can always be spotted however, with her familiar large glasses and closely cut hair and a permanent smile. She uses an assumed name and is an agreeable conversationalist.

Truckin contests, Lindy Hop competitions, "swing music" battles, freely flowing drinks, professional men with Communistic leanings, enjoying themselves with pretty white dance partners, love making of whites among themselves, hesitancy on the part of white girls to get too intimate with colored youths, colored youths a little too excited by white contacts, popular figures at Harlem colored dances walking about rather lonely at a mixed dance—all could be seen at the affair.

The Daily Worker, New Masses, and other publications were being sold at the entrances. A pretty white girl sat at a little table in the checkroom lobby and sold booklets on the Scottsboro case. The admission price of $1.00, plus ten cents for checking, caught many unawares because they had noted only the advance ticket purchase price of 75 cents on the advertising. A few tuxedoes and evening gowns were in evidence among the more fortunate Communists. A number of curiosity-seekers were present from the white group.

SIT ON FLOOR

The Lindy hop contest was interesting. It was watched by the crowd, many of whom sat informally on the ballroom floor. The Scottsboro case itself was not discussed so much by private groups but it and other radical cases were certainly in the background of their minds. As in all such mixed gatherings one senses the fact that the Communist program is a big one and the Scottsboro case merely one of many cases in which they are interested.

White girls in their contacts with colored youths go only so far. They are agreeable and will even ask the men to dance but the couples do not dance very close to each other and their conversation is limited to generalities.

The illusion that white girls are anxious to be held in colored is no more than an illusion. They are just being agreeable and incidentally carrying on the party program. The party is everything—individuals little. The "big shot" in the race is no "big shot" at such gatherings.

If you are known to other members of the party you are welcomed and do not want for white partners. But if they do not know you as a Communists you will be rather lonely. The colored names they know well are not so many.

HERNDON LIONIZED

Herndon is one of the best known. He is a social lion on such occasions but, though lively enough, he always retains his calm bearing. Davis' eyes miss nothing. Roy Wilkins is quite dignified. In fact, the major figures in the party never lose all their repressions. They are as ready to plunge into a serious tactics conference at any moment as to dance.

The white girls examine a stranger of this race. If a colored youth has brains he is more apt of recognition by them than if he is just a playboy. They care nothing for big names unless the big names have been secured through radical activity. A heroic picket has more chance of social favor than a big colored business figure.

Many of the colored stay to themselves at such affairs. They only look at the whites with a sort of wistfulness. There is plenty of suppressed excitement. For instance, imagine Ruby Bates, known the world over, slipping along inconspicuously, with no clamor, right by outsiders of the party who would give much to even recognize her.

HIGH COURT APPEAL OF NEGRO DEFEATED

Constitution
3-8-36
Atlanta Ga.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 7.—(AP)—E. K. Harris, negro, whose attempted trial on a charge of attacking a young white girl precipitated a bloody riot at Shelbyville December 19, 1934, lost in the state supreme court today in its appeal from a death sentence conviction given later at Nashville.

The supreme court designated May 22 as the electrocution date.

Four persons were killed when national guardsmen repulsed with rifles and machine guns an angry mob that attempted to storm the Shelbyville courthouse and seize Harris from the courtroom. A few hours later the mob burned the courthouse.

A mistrial resulted and subsequently Harris, guarded by militiamen, was tried in Nashville on a change of venue, convicted and given the death penalty.

OKLAHOMA APPELLATE BENCH INTENDS TO MAKE LOWER COURTS OBEY LAWS

Presiding Judge Says Recent Rule of Highest Tribunal Must Be Followed Or Verdicts Will Be Set Aside

Globe
3-6-36
Nashville Tenn.

Oklahoma City, Okla., March 5 (ANP)—The state Criminal Court of Appeals last week issued a stern warning that the U. S. Supreme Court's Jess Hollins decision must be followed by all inferior courts in Oklahoma or the state high court would reverse convictions of Negroes before white juries.

In the Jess Hollins and Scottsboro rulings the court held that a Negro was deprived of his constitutional rights in cases where Negroes were systematically excluded from jury lists.

Death Case Argued

The warning came in the oral argument on the appeal of Laurence Mitchell, Tulsa Negro, who was sentenced to death on a murder conviction.

Only recently, Jess Hollins, Creek County Negro twice sentenced to death for an alleged attack on a white girl, went into the United States Supreme Court and obtained an order for a new trial on grounds that Okmulgee county, where he was convicted the second time, barred Negroes from the jury which tried him.

Third Trial Held

He was recently tried a third time before a white jury and sentenced to life imprisonment.

"We're going to follow the United States Supreme Court decision," Presiding Judge Thomas A. Edwards announced.

"I suggest that it will save a lot of trouble if the attorney general will instruct county attorneys that Negroes must be placed on the jury list. We're going to start reversing some of those cases if they don't follow this decision."

A Visit to Scottsboro Mothers

By Dorothy Calhoun

Daily Worker

3-9-36

New York

IT was evening late in February. Past a shambly corner grocery store, deeper and deeper into the segregated Atlanta Negro district I hurried.

Small shacks, rundown battered sidewalks. Unpaved streets. Bald ugliness. Poverty-haunted black faces. The streets were badly lighted. Atlanta city fathers handle millions of dollars in graft but nothing is done to improve the conditions of thousands of Atlanta workers both Negro and white.

Mrs. Violet Montgomery was sitting alone, near dying embers of an open fireplace, reading by the light of a kerosene lamp. A warm greeting and tired dark eyes lighted at the name of the International Labor Defense. All day she had worked in a sewing shop. But weariness faded and with a brave smile she told me that her spirit was not broken.

"When I heard about the shooting of Ozie Powell in January, I was afraid for the lives of all the boys. No one knew what they might do. That night I didn't sleep a wink. Next day the forelady where I work made a speech. She said the Alabama law was rotten. The women folks on the job tried to console me but I told them I had faith in the I. L. D., which saved the boys for all these years, and the Scottsboro Defense Committee that's working on the case now with the I. L. D."

Just then Mary Alice, eleven-year-old sister of Olen Montgomery peeped through the door and smiled broadly when she saw me. This little girl was only six when the ruling class of Alabama framed her brother on the charge of "rape."

"Olen always mentions her in his letters. He always tells Mary Alice to be a good girl." Mrs. Montgomery sent her little girl hunting through the big, old-fashioned trunk for the letter Olen sent just after the shooting. In this letter, written behind iron bars of the Jefferson County Jail in Birmingham, Olen bravely urged his mother to be calm, that he was unharmed. "He's afraid he'll worry me."

* * *

THEN Mother Montgomery showed me a scrap book of pictures of her boy and the history-making events of the Scottsboro trials. Clippings and pictures of demonstrations in far away cities. Three, four, five years the clipping covered. A vivid story of hideous lynchings—and of mass protest rising like thunder from the workers. Eagerly I scanned the pages. Scarcely a year ago I had been totally ignorant of this side of life. Trials of nine black boys in another state meant only an unread item in the newspaper to me, a cotton mill hand.

Today, a slow but certain change is taking place. Once indifferent, southern workers, unemployed, intellectuals, both Negro and white are shaking off the sleepiness of inactivity and demanding the freedom of the nine Scottsboro boys.

"It was only after my boy was arrested by the law in Alabama and the International Labor Defense stopped 'em when they was fixing to kill our boys that I learned the working-class strength. The I. L. D. was like a light leading us out of the wilderness. They had the kind of ideas I liked. Since then, I've learned to tell others of organizing to stop lynchings.

"You can tell the workers that the ruling class won't break the spirit of the Scottsboro mothers. They may kill our boys, but they'll never kill our spirit. We need freedom. I've never been satisfied with this rottenness.

"Olen will be 21 years old next July 12. I'm living for the day when the class war prisoners of all the jails will be freed."

* * *

AS I arose to leave, Mrs. Montgomery turned to Mary Alice and said: "Get yo' shoes on, Mary Alice, and take her over to Mother Powell's." I thanked her for this courtesy and followed slim little Scottsboro sister down the narrow dirty street across a vacant lot and around a corner to the home of Mrs. Josephine Powell.

Mother Powell lives with her married daughetr and none of the family is employed.

"The first I heard of the shooting of my boy was over the radio. We were listening to a Negro singer and they stopped the program to announce the shooting of Ozie Powell, my boy. I nearly went crazy. I couldn't find out a thing, if he was dead or not. That night I was worried almost to death."

She sat on the edge of the bed. She looked down at her quiet folded hands as she told me the agony she went through. She is in bad health. She has a tumor of the stomach. She told me of nights spent in pain, mental and physical.

Unlike Olen Montgomery, Ozie Powell cannot write and his mother has not received a letter from him in five or six months. Christmas has passed five times, and five times the absence of Ozie was like a shadow on the life of his sisters and brothers.

The neighbors of Mother Powell, in this huddled up segregated section that the Negroes are forced to live in, express their sympathy and say they know the boys are innocent.

* * *

MOTHER Ida Norris, is also in Atlanta. She lives with Mrs. Powell and is anxious to get away from the south. The white landlords of Molina, Ga., terrorized her and made her life so miserable that she sold her meagre household belongings and came to Atlanta. She is unable to get work and wants to go up north.

The message of the three Scottsboro mothers in Atlanta is that of hope. They know the Scottsboro Defense Committee is carrying on. More and more people are uniting in protest against oppression. . . .

SCOTTSBORO CASE IS MOVED UP A STEP

162-Page Bill Of Exceptions Is Filed By Leibowitz At Decatur

Advertiser

4-22-36

Montgomery Ala.

DECATUR, ALA., April 21.—(AP)—The case of Heywood Patterson, sentenced to 75 years imprisonment in the "Scottsboro case" in January, was a step nearer the State Supreme Court today, with the filing of a 162-page bill of exceptions here by the negro's attorneys.

Signed by Samuel S. Leibowitz, Osmond K. Fraenkel, George W. Chamlee and Clarence Watts, as counsel, the bill listed exceptions taken by the defense in the trial here.

One of the principal exceptions on which the attorneys expect to appeal the verdict of guilty of attacking a white woman was the ruling of Judge W. W. Callahan against a change of venue to Federal district court.

The defense offered several affidavits in an effort to show fixed opinion in Morgan County, where the trials were sent on change of venue from Scottsboro.

Alabama statutes provide only one change of venue in a case. The defense plea was that the cases should go into Federal court, since this statute prevented "a fair and impartial" trial.

Patterson, one of nine negro defendants in the case, was convicted of attacking Mrs. Victoria Price aboard a freight train March 31, 1931. Three previous convictions, each carrying the death penalty, have been set aside, two by the United States Supreme Court.

Trils of the other Scottsboro defendants probably will be held in July, Lieutenant Governor Thomas E. Knight, Jr., said. He is special prosecutor in the cases. started when he was attorney general.

Gun Victim's Wound Called 'Very Serious'

DOTHAN, ALA., April 21.—(Special)—While his wound was described as "very serious," the condition of C. H. Godfrey, shot Sunday by J. D. Hodge, Columbia chief of police in a scuffle, was reported fair at a Dothan hospital today. Hodge is in nominal custody of county officers pending outcome of Godfrey's wound. The bullet lodged in his side.

Meantime, Jay Webb, whom Hodge was attempting to arrest for drunkenness when Godfrey allegedly interfered, pleaded guilty at Columbia to the charge and A. D. Wilkerson, Columbia mayor protem said warrants charging interference with an officer and assault had been sworn against Godfrey and Ralph King, who also was involved in the scuffle.

In turn, H. E. Godfrey, brother of the wounded man has sworn a warrant against the police officer charging assault to murder.

Aid Scottsboro In Pittsburgh

Daily Worker

4-24-36

State Legislator and City Councilman on Committee

New York, N.Y.

(Daily Worker Pittsburgh Bureau)

PITTSBURGH, April 23.—The Pittsburgh Scottsboro Defense Committee has been organized here at the initiative of the International Labor Defense. A leading Baptist minister, the Rev. Edward Bleakney, is chairman. The three vice-chairmen are: Homer S. Brown, member of the State Legislature; George E. Evans, member of the Pittsburgh City Council; and Mrs. George Bray, President of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Thomas E. Barton, an attorney, member of the Board of Directors of the National Association for Advancement of the Colored People, is treasurer. Mrs. Henry P. Payne, a vice-chairman of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and prominent in Negro women's and church organizations, is secretary. Thirty prominent Negro and white leaders of the city form a Sponsoring Committee, with connections uniting many organizations.

Four successful mass meetings have already been held in this city, with plans under way for a large number of rallies on behalf of the defense of the Scottsboro boys.

Negro Attacker Awaits Death In Kilby Prison

Advertiser

5-12-36

Montgomery

Ala.

Walter Miller, negro, convicted Monday in the Madison Circuit Court of criminally assaulting and murdering a young white woman, and sentenced to die in the electric chair on June 19, was committed to Kilby Prison yesterday morning on his arrival there in the custody of a detachment of National Guardsmen under command of Col. J. T. Moore, assistant adjutant general.

Transfer of the prisoner from Huntsville to Montgomery was made by motor convoy. When it left Huntsville this convoy consisted of 12 motor trucks and an ambulance. All but two of the trucks, however, stopped at Birmingham, the remaining trucks and the ambulance in which the negro made the trip under close guard, coming on to Kilby. Col. Moore said yesterday the journey through the country was made without incident.

Lynchings - 1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

5359

Judge Callahan Denies Motion For Venue Shift

Journal and Guide
1-11-36
Norfolk, Va.

Fourth Trial In Five Years Set For Next Week

Special to Journal and Guide

DECATUR, Ala.—Judge W. W. Callahan Wednesday afternoon denied the motion of the Scottsboro boys to transfer their cases from the Alabama state courts to the Federal District Court at Birmingham.

Judge Callahan, who presides over the Morgan County Circuit Court as successor to Judge James Horton, who was defeated for reelection after setting aside the guilty verdict in the case of Haywood Patterson in 1932, will preside for the second time at the boys' trial. The court clerk informed the Guide late Wednesday that Haywood Paterson will be tried Jan. 20 and Clarence Norris Jan. 23.

Petition for transferring the case was filed Monday on behalf of the nine boys by Attorney C. L. Watts, of Huntsville, Ala., who figures in the case for the first time.

When his petition was filed, the court set Wednesday for hearing arguments. The boys through their attorney insisted that a fair trial cannot be had in the county court. The case is being tried here on a change of venue from Scottsboro, Jackson County, and under Alabama law there cannot be another transfer of the case in the state courts.

Seven of the nine defendants were re-arraigned in the court here Monday, under the new indictments made necessary by the last U.S. Supreme Court decision in the case, setting aside the verdicts of guilty in the cases of those boys convicted under Judge Callahan in 1933.

PLEAD NOT GUILTY

They all entered pleas of innocence. The other two youths were admittedly juveniles when the case [illegible] five years ago, on March 25, 1931, to be exact, and their cases are being handled separately, through the juvenile courts first.

In New York City the newly organized and united Scottsboro Defense Committee continued preparations this week for the defense and safety of the defendants.

Contributions toward the defense fund for the nine Scottsboro youths should be sent to the Scottsboro Defense Committee, 112 East 19th Steret, New York, N.Y. Money orders and checks may be made payable to William J. Schieffelin, treasurer, or to the Scottsboro Defense Committee.

The defense organizations which have united to form the Scottsboro Defense Committee are the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the League for Industrial Democracy, the Methodist Federation for Social Service, the National Urban League, the International Labor Defense, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Journal and Guide
1-11-36
Norfolk

Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers, pastor of Broadway Tabernacle, New York City, is chairman of the united executive committee, which will have complete direction of the case.

SAYS RADICALS ACTIVE

A charge was made here Sunday that the famous case in being exploited by radical organizers in a revival of efforts to gain converts in this state for the Communist movement. Coming on the virtual eve of the re-trial of the boys, it was interpreted as an effort to inflame public sentiment against them.

Detective J. T. Moser of the Birmingham police department, where the boys have been held in jail, said that the approach of the trials has prompted increased activity among Communists. He said they were working chiefly among Birmingham Negroes and south Alabama sharecroppers.

The only organization remotely "radical" connected with the defense of the boys is the International Labor Defense, which denies it is a Communist organization as such. Attorney Samuel Leibowitz, chief defense counsel, has persistently repudiated attempts to make the case a propaganda lever. He is not a Communist.

RUBY BATES IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK CITY—(UNP)—As the nine Scottsboro boys went to the Decatur, Ala. court to enter pleas to new indictments, Monday, the name of Ruby Bates, who remains incognito in Harlem, formed the theme of private discussion here this week.

The white girl, who changed her testimony in 1932 to aid the defense, lives here under an assumed name and is a relief client.

However ,the more liberal groups of Harlemites frequently encounter her at public affairs. She often is present at Harlem events.

Her identity is closely guarded even at these affairs and many of those who attend fail to recognize her. She is Harlem's mystery woman whose name everybody knows but whose presence is known by only a few.

Reports were current Sunday at the N. A. A. C. P. mass meeting held in Metropolitan Baptist Church that Ruby Bates was among those present. A hasty search among the large crowd did not reveal her. Still she may have been there, because Angelo Herndon, the chief speaker, spoke on a subject well known to her. The subject was "Scottsboro."

The Scottsboro Case From The Inside—In The Guide

Journal and Guide
1-11-36
Norfolk

The first time the public got a full and impartial insight into the facts, motives, and inside developments of the celebrated Scottsboro Case, which has now been in the courts of Alabama and the U. S. Supreme Court for nearly five years was when P. Bernard Young, Jr., Journal and Guide managing editor, and William N. Jones covered it in 1932 for this newspaper and four others comprising the Cooperative Publishers Association. That journalistic enterprise is a landmark in Negro newspapering.

On Jan. 20 is scheduled to begin the fourth trial series in the internationally known case. Again the Guide will provide its readers first-hand reports.

At Decatur when the trial opens will be Albert L. Hinton, Guide city editor, an experienced, reliable newsman, particularly qualified in court reporting.

At the Norfolk end of the news wire will be Managing Editor Young, whose first-hand knowledge of the case plus City Editor Hinton's first-hand reporting will give Journal and Guide readers another unexcelled story—in words and pictures—of this tremendously interesting and important case. If you are not already a regular subscriber you may secure copies by mail, from newsstands, or by carrier.

Scottsboro Defense Revised

Journal and Guide
1-11-36
Norfolk

THE notorious "Scottsboro case" is scheduled to come to trial again at Decatur, Alabama, on January 13th. There have been three trials since 1931. The first at Scottsboro, was set aside by the United States Supreme Court; the second, at Decatur, was set aside by Judge HORTON, who presided; and the third, at Decatur, was turned back by the United States Supreme Court.

Up to this time the nine boys have been defended by the International Labor Defense, said to be a Communist organization, with SAMUEL LEIBOWITZ, of New York, as chief counsel. While agreeing to represent their clients, Mr. LEIBOWIZ is not a Communist, and conducted the defense with the condition that the Communists would not interfere. In spite of that the whole long drawn out case has been saturated with tense bitterness engendered partly by Alabamians' resentment of the ILD.

Now there has been organised a consolidated defense, composed of numerous national organizations, and it is understood that one or more able Alabama lawyers will be associated with the defense in the present trial.

Already a new move has been made, looking to the transfer of the cases from the State to the Federal court. In this move, the defense was represented by a white Alabama lawyer, C. L. WATTS, of Huntsville. The petitioners declare that a fair trial cannot be had at Decatur, and that Alabama laws preclude another change of venue. If the case can be gotten into the Federal district court, the chances are that the boys will get a fair trial. Otherwise the public may expect a repetition of what has [illegible] before.

New York Evening Post

JAN 8 1936

SCOTTSBORO CASE TRANSFER BARRED

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 8 (AP).—Judge W. W. Callahan in Morgan Circuit Court today denied a petition for transfer of the Scottsboro case to the United States District Court of Northern Alabama.

Only Osmond K. Fraenkel of New York of defense counsel argued the question.

Lieutenant Governor Thomas E. Knight Jr., special prosecutor, told the court he had no argument to make.

Judge Callahan said the statute cited by the defense would hold only when it was shown the State of Alabama by statute or by constitution has infringed on the rights of the defendant.

Fraenkel argued that without a hearing in Federal Court the defendants would be denied the right granted under the section of the United States code under which the petition was filed Monday.

He cited numerous cases and concluded: "We hold this court no longer has jurisdiction until the Federal Court has acted."

The motion to move the trial from the Alabama State court was made Monday by Clarance L. Watts of Huntsville, defense counsel.

Seven of the nine defendants have entered pleas of innocence to indictments charging an attack on Mrs. Victoria Price on March 25, 1931.

The defense petition was based on a Federal statute providing for removal of a trial to a Federal court where civil rights are denied in a State court. The United States Supreme Court, in one of its two reversals of the case, ruled the Constitutional rights of the defendants had been violated through systematic exclusion of Negroes from juries.

VENUE FIGHT FAILS IN SCOTTSBORO CASE

1-12

Denial of Plea to Move Trial to Federal Court Regarded as a Blow to Defense.

New York

CONVICTIONS HELD LIKELY

By JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES 2d.
Editorial Correspondence, THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 10.—Denial of a defense motion for the transfer of the Scottsboro case to the Federal court has put a temporary, and perhaps a permanent, end to the only remaining hope for a change of venue to some less prejudiced locale than Morgan County. Thus the latest effort to rid the famous case of the multiplicity of passions which have surrounded it and to isolate the trial upon a sole issue of innocence or guilt seems to have failed.

Trial in the Federal court would have assured the Scottsboro defendants of as representative a jury as Alabama affords. Under a system developed by W. S. Lovell, clerk of the Federal court for this district, names for Federal jury service are drawn from each county on a basis of its population and from each occupational group on a basis of its relative numbers.

Nominations are requested from leading individuals in each group—doctors, merchants, farm agents, bankers and so on. Negroes are always included, and they are generally of the highest local type. As a result of this system the average Federal jury in the North Alabama District is considered superior in broadmindedness and range of residence to the average State jury.

Defense Plans Criticized.

As matters now stand, the new trials, like the last, apparently will be fought out in an atmosphere of bitterness and hostility.

In the opinion of a number of Alabamians who have devoted time and energy to eliminate prejudices, the retention of Samuel Leibowitz for the defense and of Lieutenant Governor Tom Knight for the prosecution and the prominence of Socialist and Communist groups on the new Scottsboro Defense Committee will make inevitable every one of the emotional interferences which it was hoped to avoid.

To race prejudice they believe will be added prejudices against Communists, against outsiders, against Jews, against Leibowitz personally for his never-to-be forgotten description of Alabama jurors, against Knight for his suspected ambition to win the Governorship with new death sentences. These Alabamians are convinced that the only hope of a truly fair trial lay in their plan to have both Leibowitz and Knight withdraw and to entrust the defense wholly to Southern attorneys under Southern chaperonage.

Suspicions Remain.

The national organizations interested in the case quite naturally have been suspicious of this plan offered by Southerners, and particularly of the demand for withdrawal of so well advertised an attorney as Leibowitz. The Negro defendants have been equally suspicious, refusing to credit a suggestion that the sorriest shyster, if he were a local man, could do more for them now than all the genius with which Leibowitz is credited and that 10 cents' worth of local tolerance and good will might be worth more than $15,000 in a defense fund.

There is little or no editorial discussion in Alabama papers as the case is opened again. Nearly everybody seems to feel that new convictions are certain and that successful appeals or legal manoeuvring thereafter are equally certain. Clarence L. Watts, the Huntsville (Ala.) lawyer who has been retained to assist Leibowitz, is thought of here as a competent attorney, well enough known and liked in Morgan County to command a comparatively dispassionate attention for his clients if other things were equal, but since other things are so far from equal he is not likely to turn any tides or puncture any prejudices. If he or some fellow-Alabamian were given sole command there would be little reason to doubt his zeal, the defense committee to the contrary notwithstanding.

Tuskegee To Hear Noted Negro Singer

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALA., Jan. 11.—Marian Anderson, American contralto, who has recently returned from a tour in Europe, will be heard in a concert engagement in Logan Hall at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, the Tuskegee Institute entertainment course management announced today.

Advertiser

The New York Times referred to Marian Anderson as "one of the greatest living singers," and The Chicago Daily Tribune said: "Her voice is a striking one, fine in quality, range, volume, and all the things she can do with it. It sustains old arias according to all the rules of bel canto, it dashes through the floridities of Mozart's 'Alleluia' with equal effect."

1-12-36

The artist recently sang in Town Hall in New York City and in commenting on her appearance a music critic of one of the metropolitan papers said: "The negro contralto who has been abroad for four years established herself in her concert at the Town Hall last night as the possessor of an exceeding voice and art. Her singing enchanted an audience that included singers."

Montgomery
Ala.

During her Southern tour the artist will appear only once in Alabama. The announcement that she will appear at Tuskegee Institute has been enthusiastically received. Music lovers from the schools and colleges of the South as well as representatives from Music Lovers' Clubs from many of the nearby towns and cities will come to the campus for this engagement.

New York Times

JAN 6 1936

SAYS REDS EXPLOIT SCOTTSBORO CASE

Birmingham Detective Reports Communist Organizers Are Busy as Trial Nears.

BUT EFFORTS ARE 'FUTILE'

Negro Leaders 'Combating' Them —Nine Defendants Go to Decatur Court Today.

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 5 (AP).—A charge that the Scottsboro case is being exploited by Communist organizers in a revival of efforts to gain converts in Alabama was made today on the eve of the reappearance in court of the nine Negro defendants accused of attacking two white women.

The defendants will enter pleas here tomorrow to new indictments at rearraignment proceedings, preliminary to retrial of the case.

Detective J. T. Moser of the police force at Birmingham, where the Negroes have been held in jail, said approach of the trials has brought renewed activity among organizers of the Communist party, who, he said, were attempting to gain members among Negroes there and among South Alabama sharecroppers.

"There are at least a dozen organizers in the Birmingham district," said Moser, a member of the police department's "Red squad." "But they are not making much progress.

"The Negroes have lost confidence in them, and the leaders of the race are active in combating their efforts."

The new indictments in the Scottsboro case were returned recently by a Jackson County grand jury, upon which a Negro sat for the first time in sixty years.

"Systematic Exclusion" Found.

In a decision last April the United States Supreme Court handed the case back to the Alabama courts on grounds of "systematic exclusion" of Negroes from juries.

The decision was in the case of Clarence Norris, who with Heywood Patterson had been convicted and sentenced to death.

The new indictments, two against each of the nine Negroes, charge them with attacking Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates, white cotton mill workers of Huntsville, Ala., aboard a freight train in Jackson County in 1931.

Immediately after the Negroes enter their pleas tomorrow, conceded to be one of innocence to each charge, Judge W. W. Callahan, who presided at the trials of Norris and Patterson, will set a date for resumption of the trials.

Samuel S. Leibowitz of New York heads the defense staff. He was brought into the case by the International Labor Defense but broke with that organization in 1934 and was retained by another group known as the American Scottsboro Defense Committee.

Leibowitz Heads Defense.

In recent weeks, however, all organizations active in the case in the East combined in a single committee and placed Mr. Leibowitz in charge of the defense.

This group has been seeking the services of "outstanding Southern counsel" to be associated with Mr. Leibowitz, and will meet tomorrow in New York for a conference which may bring a Southern attorney into the case.

A group of leaders in Alabama has worked quietly for months seeking to persuade the Scottsboro defense committee to relinquish conduct of the defense to Alabama attorneys. This group planned to have the Alabama Bar Association name two outstanding attorneys to defend the Negroes.

The State prosecution still is headed by Lieut. Gov. Thomas E. Knight Jr., who, as Attorney General, prosecuted the case.

Chief Walter K. McAdory of the State Highway Patrol said eight of his men would form an escort for the Negroes from Birmingham early tomorrow.

The other defendants besides Norris and Patterson are Roy Wright, Eugene Williams, Olen Montgomery, Ozie Howell, Willie Robinson, Charlie Weems and Andy Wright.

Nationwide Scottsboro Day Planned

Daily Worker

Sunday, Jan. 26, has been designated as "Scottsboro Day" by the Scottsboro Defense Committee, and mass meetings are being arranged for that date, under auspices of the committee, in every part of the country, it was announced yesterday.

1-8-36

Among the members and sponsors of the committee which has issued the call for these mass meetings are, Dr. Allen Knight Chalmers, of Broadway Tabernacle, chairman; Colonel William J. Schieffelin, treasurer; Norman Thomas, Bishop F. J. McConnell, Robert Minor, the Rev. William Spofford, and Walter White.

New York

The mass meetings are being arranged in each city by the joint committees of the local representatives of the national organizations represented on the Scottsboro Defense Committee. These include the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, the Church League for Industrial Democracy (Episcopal), the American Civil Liberties Union, League for Industrial Democdacy, International Labor Defense, and the Methodist Federation for Social Service.

Among the sponsoring organizations are the Urban League and the National Committee for Defense of Political Prisoners.

Lynchings-1936
6
Legal Punishment for Rape.
6

Alabama.

5360

Move To Transfer Scottsboro Case To U. S. Court Delays Decatur Hearing

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

DECATUR, ALA., Jan. 6.—(AP)—A petition to transfer the trials of the "Scottsboro case" to Federal Court today delayed proceedings, after seven of the nine defendants had been arraigned on charges of attacking Mrs. Victoria Price and had entered pleas of innocence.

The motion, based on allegations that a fair trial could not be held in Morgan County, and that the State law prohibited a second change of venue was offered by C. L. Watts, of Huntsville, recently retained by the Scottsboro defense committee to aid in the near five-year battle in behalf of the nine negro defendants.

Judge W. W. Callahan, presiding, after reading the petition, set arguments on it for Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. in setting the time for arguments, Judge Callahan said he was not clear on one point, that is, whether the filing of the petition removed the case from his jurisdiction until the Federal Court had ruled.

"The case is in status quo until I hear arguments Wednesday," said Judge Callahan this afternoon. "I will determine then whether they have made a proper case for the removal."

The petition to which was appended three affidavits setting forth allegations that a fair trial could not be held here, also set forth the history of the case, including the ruling of Judge James E. Horton, who on June 23, 1933, set aside a death sentence in the case.

In regard to Judge Horton, the petition said, he "was defeated for reelection for the circuit court in the Spring of 1934 and that the opposition to the said Judge James E. Horton and his defeat were due, in part, to the fact that he had set aside the verdict."

Judge Horton's decision was on a motion for a new trial for Heywood Patterson, first of the seven to be arraigned today, when he was sentenced to death a second time by the jurist on April 9, 1933.

The affidavits attached to the petition were signed by Capt. R. A. Burleson, of Lacey Springs, and J. A. Hackworth, of Huntsville.

Burleson in the affidavit attached was quoted as saying, "there has been a general chrystallization of cold and deliberate sentiment against the defendants that they are generally believed by the people of Morgan County to be guilty."

The affidavit further stated that the case had become a political issue in this county.

Hackworth set forth that he had discussed the case with a score or more of citizens in the county, and found everywhere talk that the negroes were guilty, and feeling against their attorneys. A second affidavit from Hackworth quoted several purported statements that the negroes could not get a fair trial here.

Persons included in one of Hackworth's affidavits included former Sheriff A. W. Davis and his deputy, E. R. Brittnall, both of whom were in office in previous trials here. Each was quoted as saying a fair trial could not be obtained.

Solicitor Melvin Hutson of Decatur and Lieut. Gov. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., special prosecutor, asked for time to prepare arguments on the petition.

Osmond K. Fraenkel, of New York, appearing for the first time in actual trials of the case, told Judge Callahan he was willing to submit a brief, but the jurist declined, saying he only wanted to clear one point, and wished to hear oral arguments.

Knight asked for a delay to Thursday but Judge Callahan said he believed Wednesday afternoon would give ample time to the State. The Lieutenant Governor left immediately for his office in Montgomery.

"If Judge Callahan should refer the case to the Federal Court, and that court should hold that it has jurisdiction, the case would be tried in the Northern (Federal) District of Alabama."

Arraignment of the seven defendants, with Watts entering the plea as each was called to the bar and the indictment read to him proceeded without incident.

Heywood Patterson, three times convicted and sentenced to death, was the first arraigned, followed by Charlie Weems, Willie Roberson, Andy Wright and Ozie Powell.

Solicitor Hutson told the court the negroes would be tried in the order arraigned, placing Patterson again as the first of the defendants to face a jury.

When the name of Roy Wright was called, Watts immediately raised the question as to his age, pointing out that he was a juvenile at the time of his arrest, March 25, 1931, in Paint Rock, when the negroes were removed from a freight train and accused by Mrs. Price and Ruby Bates.

Judge Callahan deferred arraignment to hear arguments, and the same procedure was followed with Eugene Williams, in whose case the Alabama Supreme Court held he was a juvenile, and set aside a death sentence imposed at Scottsboro.

Judge Callahan, before the petition to transfer the case to the Federal courts was filed, said he would draw a regular venire of 30 and a special venire of 60 for the trials, and should he hold he has the right to deny the petition, probably will draw the jury and set a date for the first trial.

"I do not think it would be fair to go through with seven trials in succession," the jurist said.

He indicated that he probably would try these cases before declaring a recess.

The court room was approximately two-thirds full as the negroes were arraigned on indictments returned at Scottsboro on Nov. 13, by a grand jury that included one negro in its personnel.

Patterson and Norris were convicted of attacking Mrs. Price in trials here late in 1933, but the United States Supreme Court set the verdicts aside, holding that negroes had been "systematically excluded" from grand and trial juries in Morgan and Jackson Counties, violating their constitutional rights.

In the first trial Ruby Bates testified she was attacked, but later repudiated her testimony in the second trial of Patterson. Since that date she has not been within the jurisdiction of Alabama courts, and state counsel said no knowledge was had of her whereabouts.

The negroes, brought here quietly last night on a train, were returned to Birmingham this afternoon, where they have spent most of their five years in jail.

Scottsboro Nine Hearing Today

Advertiser

Negroes To Be Arraigned On New Indictments In Circuit Court At Decatur

1-6-36

DECATUR, ALA., Jan. 5.—(AP)—Preparations were completed here today for the rearraignment of the nine negro defendants in the Scottsboro case, echoes of which have carried to nearly every section of the globe during the near five-year litigation it has caused.

Montgomery, Ala.

The arraignment on indictments returned by a Jackson County Grand Jury that included in its personnel one negro, is preliminary to actual resumption of the trial.

The indictments, two against each of the nine negroes, charge them with attacking Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruoy Bates, Huntsville mill workers, on a freight train in Jackson County, March 25, 1931.

Reindictment and rearraignment was necessitated by a U. S. Supreme Court decision last April 1, in which the court held in the case of Clarence Norris that his constitutional rights had been violated, because negroes were "systematically excluded" from the Grand and trial juries in Morgan and Jackson Counties.

Norris's case was on appeal from the Circuit Court here where he and Heywood Patterson had been convicted and sentenced to death for the alleged attack on Mrs. Price.

Immediately after the negroes enter their pleas tomorrow, conceded to be one of innocence for each, Judge W. W. Callahan who presided in the Norris and Patterson trials, will set the date for actual resumption of the trials. He then will draw the jury, 50 for the regular panel and 50 additional, required in Alabama for capital cases.

New figures have entered the case since 1933 when Patterson and Norris were tried. Samuel S. Leibowitz, of New York, heads the defense staff, and he announced in Birmingham last Spring "there will be a complete change of scenery."

Leibowitz was brought into the case by the International Labor Defense, but broke with that organization in 1934 and was retained by another group in behalf of the negroes, known as the American Scottsboro Defense Committee.

In recent weeks, however, all organizations active in the case in the East combined in a single committee and placed Leibowitz in charge of the defense. This group has been seeking the services of "outstanding Southern counsel" to be associated with Leibowitz, and will meet tomorrow in New York for another conference, which may bring a Southern attorney actively in the case.

A group of leaders in Alabama has worked quietly for months seeking to persuade the Scottsboro defense committee to relinquish conduct of the defense to Alabama attorneys. This group planned to have the Alabama Bar Association name two outstanding attorneys to defend the negroes.

The State staff of prosecution still is headed by Lieut.-Gov. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., who as attorney general prosecuted the cases, Solicitor H. B. Bailey, of Boaz, who conducted the first trials in April, 1931, and Melvin Houston, who became solicitor of this circuit a year ago. Houston is the only new figure in the case on the State side.

Approach of the trials here, Detective J. T. Moser, of Birmingham said, had revived the activity of organizers of the communist party using it as an argument to gain converts among the negroes in the industrial city and among share-croppers in the southern part of the State.

Advertiser
1-6-36
Montgomery, Ala.

"There are at least a dozen organizers in the Birmingham district," said Moser who was assigned to the "red squad" several months ago, "but they are not making much progress.

"The negroes have lost confidence in them, and the leaders of their race are active in combatting their efforts."

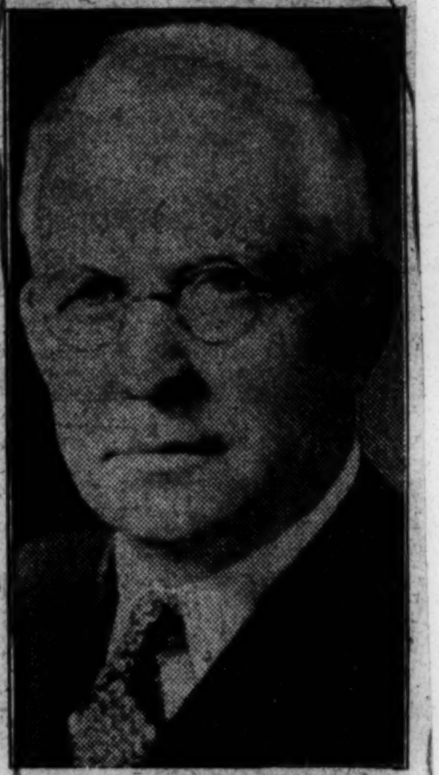
Moser said because of police surveillance the organizers were shifted about with those unknown to police being sent in.

Chief Walter K. McAdory, who heads the newly formed highway patrol, said eight of his men would form an escort for the negroes from Birmingham where they have been held, to Decatur early tomorrow. Sheriff Street Sandtin, of Morgan County, will also accompany the negroes, and probably Sheriff Fred McDuff, of Jefferson County and several of his deputies.

There was little interest here in the case from outward appearances, contrasting with the previous intense interest, particularly in March, 1933, when the trials first were moved here under change of venue from Jackson County.

A company of national guard was on duty to preserve order, but outwardly their services seemed unnecessary.

Overrules Defense Plea



JUDGE W. W. CALLAHAN

Two Scottsboro Trial Dates Set

Advertiser

Negroes' Counsel Demand For Transfer To U. S. Court Hearing Is Denied

1-9-36

DECATUR, ALA., Jan. 8.—(AP)—The first step in the renewal of the five-year fight in behalf of the nine negro defendants in the "Scottsboro case" was lost in Morgan Circuit Court today as Judge W. W. Callahan, presiding, overruled a motion to transfer the cases to the Federal courts.

Montgomery, Ala.

Immediately after overruling the motion filed Monday by Clarence J. Watts, of Huntsville, and Osmond K. Fraenkel, of New York, Judge Callahan set the trial of Haywood Patterson for Monday, Jan. 20, and that of Clarence Norris for Thursday, Jan. 23.

Fraenkel and Watts told the court.

cision of the United States that has held have a case removed under this statute unless and until, it is shown by the petition that the State has passed some law that infringes that right, that permits discrimination against the prisoner or that the court has construed that statute to give it a meaning that would authorize and permit a discrimination."

Judge Callahan cited the Powers vs. Kentucky case, in which the United States Supreme Court held the Federal courts had no jurisdiction, and also cited other cases similar to that.

Osmond K. Fraenkel, of New York, of defense counsel, then asked the judge to withhold his formal ruling, while he pointed out one or two exceptions, but after listening a moment, the judge cut in to say he had entered the order.

Based On U. S. Code

The motion was based on section 74, title 28, of the United States code, under which a citizen, deprived of "due process of law" in State civil courts might obtain a transfer to the Federal courts.

Fraenkel argued the petition briefly, citing the Powers case, and telling the court that in this particular case it was based on the defendants being denied the "fair trial" guaranteed under the 14th amendment to the Constitution.

This laid the predicate for an appeal to the United States Supreme Court where death sentences imposed on defendants in the case have twice been set aside.

Judge Callahan drew a regular panel of 35 jurymen for the special session of court at which two or more of the negroes will be tried, and 65 special veniremen for the Patterson trial and 65 special jurors for the Norris trial.

The State, at the request of Mr. Watts, then designated Charlie Weems as the third defendant to be tried. Solicitor Melvin Hutson told the court when designating a fourth defendant was suggested, that when the change of venue motion is argued next week, "we might work out a consolidation."

Court's Program

Mr. Watts, the only member of the defense counsel remaining, assented to waiting until Thursday to set dates for subsequent trials. Judge Callahan had pointed out that regular sessions of court begin opening in February, and after the first Monday in that month, a recess would necessarily be ordered, but added, "we can go ahead in March."

Court officials said they were not permitted to disclose whether the names of negroes were among the 165 names drawn for the two trials, but attaches said since the jury box was refilled last Fall, not a jury had been drawn on which there were not several negroes.

It was on the absence of negroes from the jury panels that the United States Supreme Court reversed death sentences on Norris and Patterson last April.

Patterson and Norris will be tried on an indictment charging them with attacking Mrs. Victoria Price, Huntsville mill worker, aboard a freight train in Jackson County, March 25, 1931.

All nine of the negroes were indicted on this charge and on a similar count charging an attack on Ruby Bates the same day. They were not arraigned on the indictments charging attacks on the Bates girl, who in April, 1933, repudiated the testimony she gave in the original trials in Scottsboro two years before.

Nine Scottsboro Negroes Will Face Circuit Judge At Decatur Tomorrow

Montgomery Ala

DECATUR, ALA., Jan. 4.—(AP)—Nine negroes, eight of whom once were under a death sentence, will face the Morgan County Circuit Court to enter pleas in the Scottsboro attack case Monday.

It was generally conceded the negroes would repeat their previous pleas of innocence to charges of attacking Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates, Huntsville, Ala., mill workers aboard a Southern Railway freight train, March 25, 1931.

Pleas of innocence will necessitate Judge W. W. Callahan, presiding, to set dates of trials, placing the case on the same status that it was in March, 1933, when Judge A. E. Hawkins at Scottsboro, who once sentenced eight of them to death, granted a change of venue.

Samuel S. Leibowitz, of New York, who represented the negroes in three previous trials here, will head the defense counsel under plans of the "Scottsboro defense committee" which combines organizations working in behalf of the defendants.

State counsel will be headed by Lieut.-Gov. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., who as State attorney-general prosecuted the previous trials here.

Knight will be assisted by Solicitor H. G. Bailey, who as prosecutor in the Jackson County Circuit Court where the trials were first held, conducted the State's case, and Melvin Houston, solicitor of the Morgan County Circuit Court.

Since Clarence Norris and Haygood Patterson were tried here late in 1933, the United States Supreme Court has for a second time reversed death sentences imposed in the case.

In its last decision, in which the United States Supreme Court held that constitutional rights of the defendants had been violated through "systematic exclusion" of negroes from juries in Jackson and Morgan Counties, the names of negroes have been placed in the jury boxes.

The negroes will be arraigned Monday on indictments returned by a grand jury in Jackson County Nov. 13, 1935, on which a negro served. Since the decision members of the race have served on a grand jury here.

The defendants, all except one of whom has passed at least five birthdays in jail are Andy and Roy Wright, Eugene Williams, Ozie Powell, Olin Montgomery, Norris, Patterson, Charlie Weems and Willie Robinson.

Chief Walter K. McAdory, of the State highway patrol, said last night he had assigned a squad of eight patrol officers, in charge of Capt. Van Buren Gilbert, to assist other officers in the transfer tomorrow from Birmingham to Decatur, for arraignment, of the nine negro "Scottsboro case" defendants.

Rush Scottsboro Support!

Daily Worker

THE Scottsboro trials are not like "prosperity, just around the corner"—they begin next Monday.

This means that the murder proceedings which the Alabama officials have the audacity to call a trial, will begin five days from today.

1-8-36

Every effort is being put forward by special executioner Tom Knight, to go Judge "Speed" Callahan one better in rushing through the trials. Already, the arraignment has been held, pleas of "not guilty" have been entered, all in the breakneck time of a week. A mass execution is in the offing for the officials are planning to try all nine of the boys together.

Fifteen thousand dollars must be raised at once to cover the expenses of an adequate defense. Every person and organization that believes in justice and fair play—in the freedom of the Negro people—should rush contributions large and small to William J. Schieffelin, treasurer, Scottsboro Defense Committee, 112 East 19th Street, New York City.

Scottsboro

HISTORY repeats itself!

The same lynch atmosphere in which the Scottsboro boys were tried in March, 1933, has again been whipped up for the trials which begin Monday, 1936!

Daily Worker

To bear this out, Capt. R. A. Burleson, life-long resident of Morgan County, Ala., scene of the impending trials, swore the other day "that it would be impossible to impanel a jury in Morgan County that would not convict the defendants."

His affidavit said, "There has been a general crystallization of cold and deliberate sentiment" against the Scottsboro boys.

Just as "coldly and deliberately," the Alabama officials, who have set this murder-trap, are trying to prevent the trials from being removed from Morgan County.

Greater than ever does the united Scottsboro Defense Committee—composed of such outstanding men as Roger Baldwin, Walter White, Norman Thomas and Bishop Francis J. McConnell—need the immediate support of every organization and individual who believe in justice and fair play.

Joint mass meetings throughout the country of every organization represented on the Scottsboro Defense Committee must ring: "The Scottsboro boys must not die." Let this slogan be translated into action!

Negro To Go On Trial At Decatur

Advertiser

First Scottsboro Retrial Is Slated Monday; Ruling On Venue Still Pending

1-19-36

DECATUR, ALA., Jan. 18.—(AP)—Heywood Patterson, three times sentenced to death in the "Scottsboro case," will face a fourth jury here Monday as the first of seven of the nine negro defendants to be brought to trial again.

There still was a possibility that Patterson would not go to trial, as Judge W. W. Callahan earlier this week reversed decision on a motion for a change of venue until Monday.

Since Alabama statutes provide for only one change of venue, it was not believed that Judge Callahan would grant the motion. He previously has denied a motion for a change of venue to the U. S. District Court of Northern Alabama.

A regular venire of 35 and a special venire of 65 has been drawn for the trial, and while court attaches did not state definitely the number, they said the names of several negroes were included.

Montgomery Ala.

The jury panel was drawn by Judge Callahan Jan. 6, when Patterson and six co-defendants entered pleas of innocence.

In the motion for a change of venue, attorneys for the negroes claimed a fair trial could not be obtained here due to prejudice and fixed opinions. The same grounds were advanced in the motion for a transfer to Federal Court.

Patterson, Clarence Norris, Willie Roberson, Olen Montgomery, Andy Wright, Ozie Powell and Charlie Weems have entered pleas of innocence. The other two defendants, Roy Wright and Eugene Williams, have not been arraigned.

The United States Supreme Court twice has reversed death sentences in the case in which the negroes are charged with attacking Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates aboard a freight train in Jackson County, March 25, 1931.

The first reversal held the negroes had not had benefit of adequate counsel, the second was on grounds that "systematic exclusion" of negroes from juries had violated their constitutional rights.

The negroes are to be tried this time on indictments returned last November in Jackson County by a grand jury that included a negro in its personnel. Negroes have served on the grand jury here since the decision, and a number are on the jury rolls.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

5361

NEW YORK TIMES

JAN 26 1936

BITTERNESS IS ADDED TO SCOTTSBORO CASE

Trials Are Delayed After Conviction Of One of the Accused Under the Law as It Is Laid Down

By F. RAYMOND DANIELL.

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 25.—The rash act of Ozie Powell in stabbing a deputy sheriff who was taking him to jail has heaped new coals upon the fires of bitterness surrounding the famous Scottsboro case. It makes death sentences for all the Negroes accused with him of at~~tacking two~~ white women almost certain and it raises a question of the wisdom of appealing from the verdict of the jury which condemned Haywood Patterson to a life in prison.

It is probable, however, that the Negroes whose trials were indefinitely postponed after Patterson's fourth conviction could be brought back here tomorrow without danger of a lynching.

There were few indications at the court proceedings this week of the hysteria which marked the earlier trials. That is undoubtedly because the citizens of Morgan County feel reasonably sure that, with Judge W. W. Callahan presiding, there will be no miscarriage of justice as they see it.

Judge Callahan promised at the outset to "debunk" the trials of the Negroes. He made his promise after Judge James E. Horton had incurred the bitter enmity of local folk by reversing the verdict of a jury which decreed Patterson's execution in the electric chair after a trial before him.

Judge Horton's Attitude.

Judge Horton heard all the evidence that was offered by both sides. He took the position that in a case which had assumed the importance of the Scottsboro case hemmed in as it was—and is—by the extraneous issues of sectionalism, race prejudice and politics, anything that would help to bring out the truth was admissible in evidence. By doing so, he allowed what the law decribes as a "reasonable doubt" to creep in upon the consciousness of the court room hangers-on.

So long as that doubt remained there was need for National Guardsmen to protect Haywood Patterson—the man on trial—and his six colored co-defendants, from the mob violence which threatened them. When doubt of the outcome was lessened the danger of violence was lessened in the same ratio.

Thus at Patterson's first trial before Judge Callahan, in whom the townsfolk have the utmost confidence, it was deemed safe to dispense with the services of the militia, and the safety of the defendants was entrusted to special deputies from Birmingham. At that trial Patterson and Clarence Norris, a fellow-defendant, were convicted and sentenced to death at trials which the defense charged were prejudiced by the judge himself.

Citizens Support Bench.

The faith of the citizens of Morgan County in the orderly processes of the law was justified, just when they were beginning to speak openly, and with nostalgia, of the old-fashioned "hempen way." Even when the United States Supreme Court ordered new trials for the two condemned Negroes on the ground that they had been illegally indicted by grand juries from which members of their race had been excluded, the good folk of Morgan County shrugged their shoulders and placed their faith in Judge Callahan and the law.

If they must put Negroes upon their jury rolls, the State could "strike" them before they ever got into the jury box, couldn't it? So they reasoned. Alabama could still render lip service to the Fourteenth Amendment and flout it as she had since the evil days after the War between the States, they reasoned. That, and more, is exactly what happened; and because it did happen the poor whites of this region, where the economic gulf is narrow between the upper class of one race and the lower class of another, are willing to "let the law take its course."

The appearance of Negroes on the panel from which juries were chosen to try Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris caused little stir among the overalled audiences which gathered to see the "big shot" lawyer from New York link horns with the champion of the womanhood of Alabama, Lieutenant Governor Thomas E. Knight Jr. No one in the court room had any doubt but that the former Attorney General, who entered the case more to protect the Jim Crow jury system than to prosecute the Negroes, would see to it that all the colored men were eliminated.

He did.

Special Deputies Not Needed.

Judge Callahan's "debunking" of the Scottsboro case was so successful two years ago that this time, in spite of the Supreme Court ruling necessitating the inclusion of Negroes on the jury rolls if not on the juries, it was not necessary even to swear in deputies from Birmingham to protect the defendants. Only a handful of State highway policemen were on hand to guard them, and all there was to protect them from lynching, really, was the certainty of the townsfolk that after the formality of a trial the Negroes would be dealth with "as the law provides."

FOR THE DEFENSE

Associated Press.

Samuel Leibowitz, acting for the accused in the Scottsboro case.

In Patterson's trial, which resulted in a conviction and the recommendation of a penitentiary sentence of seventy-five years, Judge Callahan proved himself a strict constructionist as opposed to Judge Horton concerning the rules of evidence. Where Judge Horton had stretched a point to get to the bottom of a story which is at least dubious, Judge Callahan thumbed the law books and found reasons for excluding a great deal of testimony, which it seemed to a layman who has observed all but the first trials at Scottsboro, might have shed some light upon what really happened.

Evidence Ruled Out.

Judge Callahan held repeatedly that the defense had no right to show that Victoria Price might have given the physical appearance of having been attacked entirely as the result of her own willing indiscretions with white men on the night before she accused the Negroes of attacking her, after a posse had stopped the freight train on which she and her momentary lover were hoboing.

The State's own witness, Dr. R. R. Bridges, gave testimony at the trial before Judge Horton tending to bear out the theory of the defense about how the complaining witnesses got into the condition in which he found them. After that the State never presented its medical testimony, holding that a party to a lawsuit cannot attack its own witness.

Since the State will not call Dr. Bridges after his testimony on cross-examination at the trial before Judge Horton, the defense cannot do so without developing certain medical evidence and then finding itself stymied in the very thing it seeks to prove—that the circumstance can be explained without admitting an attack by the Negroes.

Judge Callahan has refused to permit defense counsel to interrogate Mrs. Price, the lone complaining witness, on what she did in Chattanooga or with whom she went there. In all this he has had the apparent approval of the court room crowd, even when the defense in desperation moved for a mistrial and accused him to his face of bias and prejudice.

Word Against Word.

With the evidence limited, by Judge Callahan's interpretation of the Alabama statutes, virtually to the question of a white woman's word against the word of an accused Negro, the court room crowd and the people of Morgan County have been satisfied.

Patterson's life has been saved. He has been condemned to a penitentiary sentence longer than ever the most optimistic actuary would reckon his life probabilities. For Mr. Leibowitz, who boasts that few of his clients ever have gone to the electric chair, it is a victory, but for Patterson it is what? A Negro in jeopardy of his life is a potential martyr, but a Negro in jail for the rest of his life for a sordid crime is a forgotten man.

YAKIMA, WASH.
DAILY REPUBLIC

JAN 25 1936

THE SCOTTSBORO CASE

The supreme court of Georgia once, and the United States supreme court twice, sent the famous Scottsboro case back to be retried. Why all the bother about a ~~colored man~~ who assaulted a white woman?

All that expense and time could have been saved had it not been for a much derided document called the federal Constitution. That instru-

SCOTTSBORO DEFENDANTS GO TO A FOURTH TRIAL

Associated Press.

State policemen acting as guards for the accused Negroes.

Associated Press.

udge Callahan, who presided in the Decatur court room.

ment was promulgated in the horse and buggy days when the rights of the poor and downtrodden loomed high in the minds of the framers of that document.

It provided that a person accused of crime still retains certain inalienable rights, and the two supreme courts found that such rights had been violated by the trial court. The appellate courts did not find that the accused was innocent; on the contrary they assumed for the purpose of the hearing that he was guilty, but they said, nevertheless, that his rights must be respected.

The Scotsboro case is a vivid illustration of the usefulness of the higher courts of the land, both state and federal; they stand guard between poor, unknown citizens unable to otherwise defend themselves and

the unauthorized acts of executive and legislative branches of government, as well as unauthorized acts of the lower courts.

He who impugns the sincerity of the courts and denounces them as friends of the rich and mighty—whether such accuser be president or the most humble citizen—should stop and think. Does he want to abolish or weaken the instrument which keeps him from becoming the victim of governmental tyranny? The Constitution set up the boundary beyond which the government may not go in regulating private individuals; it defines the rights of the humblest citizen and throws the mantle of protection around that citizen.

Before inveighing against the Constitution and the courts each man should ask himself the question, Is it possible that there may come a time when my rights will be threatened? Am I willing to throw away my strongest protection against the invasion of those rights?

PITTSBURG, KANS.
HEADLIGHT
JAN 28 1936

THAT "FAIR" TRIAL

Another Scottsboro trial has been concluded. The fourth jury to sit in judgment decreed that one of the Negro defendants, the first on trial, should go to prison for 75 years. The other juries had decreed the death penalty. The previous trials were so unfair that new trials were ordered. The federal Supreme Court once

acted in the celebrated case, favoring the defendants because of trials that were branded as unfair.

The Negro youth first to trial, Patterson, saw five Negroes appear for jury service. The highest court had ordered that Negroes be called for service. The state exercised care and no Negro got into the box. So the jury was pure white. It declined, however, to dangle the noose before the black prisoner.

But in his plea to the jury, the prosecutor, who may be new on the job and unfamiliar with the rulings and unafraid of the Supreme Court, told the jury: "Don't go out and quibble over the evidence. Say to yourselves, 'We're tired of this job' and get it behind you. Get it done quick and protect the fair womanhood of this great state."

And thus the state prepared the way for another appeal.

Birmingham, Ala. News
January 29, 1936

LEIBOWITZ MAY BE DISMISSED

Powell's Mother Says He Wants Lawyer Fired

Josephine Powell, mother of Ocie Powell, wounded Scottsboro Negro, who was shot in the head by Sheriff Sandlin of Morgan County in an escape attempt last Friday, announced at the sheriff's office here Wednesday she would seek to have Samuel Liebowitz discharged

as counsel for the Negroes, at her son's request.

The woman said her son blamed Leibowitz for his present condition and that he deiired that she employ "some other lawyer" to represent him and the other eight Scottsboro Negroes.

This announcement was made by Powell's mother in present of Deputies Truss and Boggan, after she had been to Hillman Hospital and talked several minutes with her son. She said Ocie told her about the plot to escape and repeated to her his previous assertion that the other Scottsboro Negroes, who are held in County Jail here, had threatened him if he did not carry out his part of the plan and cut the officers.

"I believe my boy is telling the truth," said the woman. "And I want another lawyer, just as he does. Ocie told me he blames Mr. Leibowitz for the condition he is in now."

Powell's mother said she was returning to Atlanta, where she lives, Wednesday and that she would seek to hire an attorney there to "represent my boy."

This statement was made by the Negro woman almost simultaneously with an announcement from Decatur by Sheriff Sandlin that no charges would be preferred against Powell or Roy Wright, another Scottsboro Negro, in connection with their battle with officers Friday as they were being transferred from Decatur to Birmingham.

The Associated Press quoted Sheriff Sandlin as saying, "The case will be investigated by the Grand Jury. There is no need for warrants."

Powell's condition was described as "good" Wednesday at the hospital, where he was taken after being shot in the head by the sheriff Friday. Deputy Edgar Blalock, of Morgan County, who was slashed in the throat by Powell in the escape attempt, also was reported recovering.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
January 24, 1936

The Scottsboro Decision

The 75-year sentence in the Scottsboro case is a somewhat amazing result. For one thing, it represents probably the first time in the history of the South that a Negro has been convicted of a charge of rape upon a white woman and has been given anything less than a death sentence. This fact alone makes the verdict a surprising one.

In an ordinary case, a Negro charged with such a crime in the South would either be acquitted outright or sentenced to death. A Southern jury has probably never before brought in a conviction in such a case without a death penalty.

Then how can one explain this verdict, if explanation must be made? Could it be true that opinions and standards of justice have changed and that a jury may properly decide that extenuating circumstances exist

which call for less than the severest penalty where before the severest penalty always followed conviction? Or is it possible that the jury entertained some doubt of guilt and instead of acquitting where doubt exists gave heed to the previous convictions and all the circumstances surrounding the case and modified conscience with policy? Does the verdict represent the conflicting play of emotions rather than judgment?

Opinions will probably vary widely on the verdict. Some will be glad that perhaps at least some question of doubt as to the guilt of the defendants has entered the case. Perhaps others will be sorry that the verdict is one which has elements that tend to cast further discredit upon the standards of justice which prevail here.

The Age-Herald, on the whole, even though the verdict may appear in many ways to be illogical, is pleased at the jury's decision. From many viewpoints, the paper feels that a distinct gain has been made in the amelioration of an attitude that has brought much criticism to Alabama.

Cleveland, Tenn. Banner
January 25, 1936

THE SCOTTSBORO VERDICT

For the fourth consecutive time an Alabama jury has convicted Heywood Patterson, one of the five negro defendants charged with rape in the so-called "Scottsboro case," that has been dragged through the courts now for nearly five years.

Those who are most familiar with the facts in the case are convinced that the verdicts have been justified by the evidence, and it is time that outside meddlers should let Alabama attend to its own affairs.

Public sentiment throughout the state is in accord with the verdicts of the juries and the sentences that have been imposed for the crime of which Patterson was convicted, and there is naturally, resentment against the attitude of outsiders seeking to dictate to the state how it should dispense justice.

Some of those who have interested themselves in these cases are sincere in their belief that this group of negroes have not received fair and impartial trials—but the chief reason actuating the radical organizations that have seized upon the Scottsboro cases to launch a nation-wide hue and cry is the opportunity presented to raise a huge "defense" fund for thier own ends.

The demand that this group of defendants be freed, regardless of the verdicts of the courts, has been voiced chiefly by subversive organizations which advocate principles radically at variance with the doctrines upon which the American government is based.

Within the past year these radica organizations have been withdrawn from the lime light of the case, bu they are still primarily responsibl for continuation of the effort to tel Alabama how it shall conduct its affairs.

The significant comment of th

New York lawyer is now chief counse for the defense that the latest con viction will be fought "with all th resources we can command," will b the basis for a demand for mor funds, and so long as the financia resources hold out, these outside meddlers will continue to misrepresen

Alabama.

Those who, through ignorance o misinformation, are sincere in thei support of these efforts should realize that the activities of the New York Scottsboro defense committee are doing the cause they espouse more harm than good

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

5362

5362

Decatur Deputy Slapped Negro, Is New Charge

Norris, Third Defendant In Auto, Declares Officer Started Fight On Road

Version Is Denied

Ozie Powell Allowed No Visitors At Hospital As Soldiers Are Recalled

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Jan. 25.—(AP)—A new and contrasting version of the fight between two "Scottsboro" negroes and officers was given today by Clarence Norris, third defendant present, who said Deputy Edgar Blalock slapped Ozie Powell before the negro slashed the officer with a knife.

Powell, gravely wounded, was allowed no visitors in County Hospital here, and could not amplify his previous account that he started the battle "because Deputy Blalock and another white man said they was going to kill us."

Blalock and Sheriff J. Street Sandlin, whose bullet penetrated Powell's skull, emphatically denied making any threats whatever as they drove Powell, Roy Wright, also accused of participating in the fight, and Norris to Birmingham from Decatur, where the Scottsboro trials were postponed yesterday.

As tension over the State slackened, Gov. Graves ordered the release of 40 of the 50 national guardsmen held in readiness overnight here after Powell was rushed to the hospital for an emergency operation and the other eight Scottsboro negroes were placed in the county jail.

Delivery Boy Held

Powell's story of the incident, in which he said he bought the knife used "for 30 cents" at Decatur, led to the arrest there of Ernest Merriwether, negro delivery boy, who denied having sold any of the Scottsboro defendants either knife found in the Sandlin car.

Three investigations of the incident were underway. Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief of defense counsel, arrived here this afternoon to "get the facts," but declined to discuss the fight. Solicitor Melvin Hutson at Decatur said the Morgan County Grand Jury would conduct its investigation beginning on Feb. 17 and his office was working on evidence to present on that date.

Capt. Potter Smith, of the State Highway Patrol, was sent here from Montgomery by Gov. Graves to conduct a personal investigation for the chief executive. He had not completed his inquiry, and would not discuss his report.

Negroes Questioned

From their cells in county jail, their quarters for most of the five years since the nine negroes were accused of attacking Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates aboard a freight train in Jackson County March 25, 1931; Norris and Wright were questioned by reporters and officers today.

"Ozie had 'sassed' Mr. Blalock and the officer slapped him," Norris said. "Ozie and Mr. Blalock had been talking about the attorneys in the case.

"A few minutes after that, Ozie reached his free hand into his pocket and got his knife. He opened it and then reached over and cut Mr. Blalock's throat. That was when the trouble started.

"Roy Wright did not have a knife and did not try to cut Sheriff Sandlin. We thought that after Ozie had cut the officer so bad, that they was going to kill us all. They didn't shoot any of us though, except Ozie.

Denies Escape Plot

"I was not hurt and Roy was not hurt. We had not planned to escape, because we feel now that we won't have to try to escape. We believe we will get free anyway."

Norris evidently referred to the 75-year sentence given Heywood Patterson, another of the Scottsboro negroes, at Decatur Thursday. In three previous trials, Patterson had been sentenced to death.

Wright also denied any part in the fight.

"I didn't have a knife and I didn't try to cut the sheriff," he said. He also said Powell "found" the knife in the Decatur jail, and did not buy it.

"We feels we was lucky that all three of us did not get killed," he said, "because we thought they was going to kill us after Ozie cut the officer. The sheriff shot only one time, though, and that was when he shot Ozie, after Ozie had cut Mr. Blalock."

Bloody Knives Held

Both Blalock and Sheriff Sandlin said Powell and Wright attacked them without warning. Two knives, both of the ordinary pocket variety, were held as evidence by Sheriff Sandlin. Both were blood-covered, and matches had been placed under the blades of both to make them easier to open with one hand.

The three negroes, Norris in the middle, were in the rear seat of the car, handcuffed together. Powell's left hand was free and Wright's right hand was unmanacled.

In Montgomery, Gov. Graves made repeated calls to the hospital to direct that "every effort known to medical science be made to save Powell's life."

Expressing resentment at criticism of Alabama officers in the case, the Governor said the officers deserved praise for their handling of the case.

Sheriff Sandlin, charged today that "white persons" were responsible for the "plot to kill us."

Charges White Plot

"It was all planned Thursday night," he said, "and no negro did the planning. We never had a cross word with any of those negroes and not a word had been spoken for 10 miles when they suddenly pulled knives and jumped on us."

Lieut. Gov. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., chief of prosecution counsel, who was following the car in which the fight occurred, said "every Alabama officer present took every possible step to effect safe delivery of the prisoners to Birmingham, even after the attack on the two officers."

Blalock remained under the care of a physician at Decatur, suffering from loss of blood and weakness. His condition was not regarded as serious.

The fight occurred approximately 70 miles north of Birmingham.

Powell in Room

Powell was moved to a private room today because the order of the Governor that no persons be allowed to see him and question him would have deprived other patients of visitors.

Other negro patients and their visitors conversed in low and excited whispers during the visiting hour, but hospital attaches said Powell had a quiet day.

Numbers of curious persons sought to see the negro during the day but all were turned back except Leibowitz and Clarence L. Watts, of Huntsville, recently employed by the defense, were permitted to talk with him.

Members of three law enforcement units of the State turned back all others.

Leibowitz Sees Negroes

Leibowitz conferred with the other negro defendants in the Jefferson County jail late today, being permitted to do so by Chief Deputy Sheriff Charles McComb, after the Governor and Chief Walter K. McAdory, of the highway patrol, had referred him to Judge W. W. Callahan, who presided over the trial in which Heywood Patterson, another defendant was convicted and sentenced to 75 years imprisonment Thursday.

Judge Callahan told Deputy McComb, "why do they want to see them? I'm not giving you permission for the attorneys to see the negroes. You have the negroes in custody—you can use your own judgment."

Before entering the jail elevator, Leibowitz, laughingly asked that he and Watts be searched.

"I don't want anyone to believe I took any weapons into the jail if they should find any later," he said.

A deputy sheriff, grinning, searched him and Watts.

Leibowitz on his arrival here said he was "amazed" on reading the account of the shooting and stabbing in newspapers.

Leibowitz Demands All Facts In Road Affray

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Jan. 25.—(AP)—Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief of defense counsel for the nine "Scottsboro case" defendants tonight issued a statement asking Sheriff J. Street Sandlin, of Decatur, to give "all the facts" in the wounding of a deputy and critical shooting of Ozie Powell yesterday.

Leibowitz statement, issued after he had conferred with the negroes, and had seen Powell in the hospital, follows:

"Does the sheriff of Morgan County claim that three negroes shackled together in the rear seat of a rapidly moving automobile with only two doors leading to the front compartment, with two men in that automobile armed to the teeth, this car preceded in front by an automobile carrying two other armed officers of the law and followed by still another car with armed guards and with State highway patrolmen as an escort did attempt to escape by using a pen knife?

"If that is the contention of the Morgan County sheriff, we dare say that the public will demand further enlightenment.

"If it was not an attempt to escape perhaps the sheriff will be kind enough to give the public all of the facts that provoked this unfortunate occurrence."

Scottsboro Sympathizers Begin Howling Again

Telegrams reaching Gov. Graves and Lieut. Gov. Knight yesterday from East, West, North and as far south as Kentucky, denounced what was termed the "attack" by officers on the "Scottsboro boys" and "demanded" that Judge W. W. Callahan, of Decatur, be impeached. "Demand" was also made that Sheriff J. S. Sandlin, of Morgan County, who shot Ozie Powell after he had stabbed Deputy Sheriff Edgar Blalock in the neck with a knife, be arrested, tried and convicted of "murderous assault" on Powell.

Neither the Governor nor the Lieutenant Governor had any comment to make concerning the messages the tenor of which was substantially the same as the following chosen at random.

From the Louisville, Ky., Pen and Hammer Club: "Demand immediate unconditional release Scottsboro boys to save their lives. Demand arrest and prosecution of sheriff for murderous assault and impeachment Judge Callahan."

From the International Labor Defense organization at Akron, Ohio. Declaring that the shooting of Powell was "entirely unnecessary," the telegram stated it "has the appearance of a deliberate frameup to cause the lynching of the Scottsboro boys." Prosecution and conviction of Sheriff Sandlin was demanded.

The Young People's Forum wired from an Eastern city that the shooting of Powell "gives evidence of obvious attempt to incite lynch sentiment against Scottsboro victims," and the Governor was informed in this particular message: "Enlightened opinion expects your office to take action against and prevent such barbaric inhuman treatment and demands unconditional release of the nine boys unjustly kept prisoners these five years."

The Communist Party at Tacoma, Wash., telegraphed its protest against the shooting of Powell, and a telegram from Willard E. Upshaus, secretary of the Religion and Labor Foundation at New Haven, Conn., urged that the Scottsboro defendants be protected at all costs, stating "let justice prevail."

From Congressman Mitchell

Congressman Arthur Mitchell, of the first Illinois district, Chicago, wired the Governor: "I hope you will make a thorough investigation of the shooting of Powell alleged to have been shot by State guard." A communication from the Minnesota District International Labor Defense at Minneapolis, declared that the "lynch spirit developed by Judge Callahan was responsible for the shooting of Powell." A demand was made for the impeachment of Judge Callahan and the arrest of Sheriff Sandlin. The Governor, it was stated, was being "held responsible for the safety of the Scottsboro boys." From Minneapolis, the Rev. Donald L. Lester and his wife wired "we hold you morally responsible for shooting of Ozie Powell."

The New Haven branch of the National Research League, New Haven, Conn., demanded a "complete investigation" of the Scottsboro situation and adequate protection of the prisoners "against sheriffs and mobs." Information was sent in by the West Side section of the International Labor Defense in Chicago, that a "huge mass meeting" had denounced the "dastardly attack against the nine innocent Scottsboro boys" and demanded adequate protection and punishment to the "perpetrators of the outrage against them."

A telegram from New York signed "Federal Negro Theater Local City Projects Council," said: "We condemn murderous assault on Ozie Powell innocent victim of Scottsboro frameup. We hold you personally responsible for safety of all boys and demand immediate indictment of attackers." From the same city another message stated 250 young scientists at a scientific meeting "protest the shooting of Powell by an Alabama sheriff in unwarranted and fantastic provocation." It was signed with the name "Vanguard Scientific Society."

No mention was made in any of the telegrams of the stabbing of Deputy Sheriff Blalock by Powell who was trying to get hold of the wounded deputy's gun when Sheriff Sandlin shot him, nor of the attempt to slash the sheriff himself with another knife by Roy Wright, another of the defendants who with a third, Clarence Norris, was in the same car with the two officers.

Gov. Graves. and Lieut. Gov. Knight added the messages received yesterday to hundreds of others regarding cases, prospective trials and trials, that have been delivered to them in recent months. Former Gov. B. M. Miller received literally thousands of such telegrams during his administration. They till file after file and are constantly being added to.

Governor's Statement

Without any reference to the messages arriving by telegraph yesterday or at any other time, the Governor expressed his resentment of criticism from outside the State, appearing in the press to the effect that proper protection was not given the prisoners. This criticism was refuted by the chief executive in the following statement issued during his morning conference with newspapermen:

"The State took every possible precaution to secure the absolute safety of the prisoners and to assure them of that safety. Our Highway Patrol, which is a State constabulary, was instructed and did at all times have about these prisoners and all of them an ample patrol of State officers in State uniforms. When this unfortunate incident occurred on the highway between Decatur and Birmingham, the automobile in which Sheriff Sandlin with Ozie Powell and others were riding was immediately led in caravan by a car just in front in charge of the captain of the Highway Patrol and other officers in State uniform.

"The sheriff's car was immediately followed by a car with State officers in State uniform who were the first to reach Sheriff Sandlin's car after the incident. On each car, very prominently displayed, was the State emblem and in large letters, the words 'Highway Patrol.' This State protection not only protected the prisoners against any interference, but was ample assurance no violence of any kind could be inflicted upon any of them."

On advice from Birmingham, where all of the prisoners are confined in the Jefferson County jail, with the exception of Powell, who is a patient in a hospital where he underwent an operation Friday night for removal of a bullet from his brain—that "all was quiet," the Governor yesterday afternoon ordered the force of 50 national guardsmen held in readiness for possible emergency duty to be reduced to one commissioned officer and a single squad of eight enlisted men.

Adjt. Gen. John C. Coleman, who went to Birmingham Friday evening to make a survey of the situation and take what action he deemed necessary in the matter of calling troops into active service, returned to Montgomery last night. Capt. E. Potter Smith, of the State Highway Patrol, detailed by order of Gov. Graves to go to Birmingham, make an investigation, and report to him, remained on duty there, however, to keep the Governor advised of all developments.

Richmond, Va. Times-Dispatch
February 1, 1936

Another Scottsboro Tragedy

THE horrible tragedy which brought Scottsboro back into the news again on yesterday, was the direct result of gross carelessness on somebody's part. There is no possible justification for placing a 30-gallon drum of gasoline inside a cage on wheels containing 22 convicts.

We understand that such cages are not used in Alabama any longer, except for transferring prisoners from place to place, but in some Southern States they are still doing duty as sleeping places for the prisoners, who spend their days on chain-gangs and their nights shackled like animals in these traveling lock-ups. Virginia, we are glad to say, does not use such cages for any purpose.

Some may have thought SECRETARY ICKES was trying to be funny when he referred to GOVERNOR TALMADGE of Georgia the other day as "his chain-gang excellency," but there was grim truth in the phrase. It was TALMADGE who said some months ago that the "prison camp or chain-gang is the most humane way to keep prisoners."

This should be placed alongside the recent findings of a commission created by the Georgia Legislature to investigate prison conditions in that State. It reported to TALMADGE that conditions described in BURNS' *I Was a Fugitive From the Chain-Gang* are "mild compared to conditions in some camps," and MR. TALMADGE had to admit that "conditions are very deplorable" in "some camps." It was stated by the commission that in Heard County "steel collars attached with chains running to steel anklets were used on convicts, and in some instances spikes were affixed to the ankles of prisoners." It also was found that men with tuberculosis or syphilis were chained in bunks next to men who were not afflicted with these maladies.

Then the horrible episode in a North Carolina convict camp, which resulted in the amputation of the feet of two convicts, is fresh in the memory. It will be recalled that the men in question were chained nine days and nights to the iron door of their cell in extremely cold weather, with hardly any food or heat. Their feet froze and become gangrened. They got no medical attention worth mentioning until it was found that their feet had to be amputated. A jury acquitted all the prison officials connected with the affair.

While our information is that conditions in the Alabama convict camps are somewhat better than those described in the foregoing paragraphs, the placing of a 30-gallon drum of gasoline in a closed truck full of prisoners is the grossest sort of negligence. It indicates that insufficient care is exercised with respect to convicts.

In all probability, too, this episode will lead to fresh outbursts of criticism of the Alabama authorities from the North, thereby adding to the resentment already existing in that State over the mediation of Northerners on behalf of the Scottsboro defendants. Poor Alabama! The Scottsboro case was sufficiently muddled already, without the recent affray between OZIE POWELL and his guards. Now comes the incineration of 20 Negro convicts through the carelessness of an attendant. It makes the conviction of the remaining Scottsboro defendants all the more certain. But if it will lead to reform in penal conditions in various Southern States, it will bring at least some good in its train. The South has been penologically backward for a long time. GEORGE W. CABLE called attention half a century ago to the horrible conditions under which convicts lived in Dixie

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Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
January 26, 1936

ANOTHER CHAPTER IN A BITTER TRAGEDY

The fight between a sheriff and his deputy on the one hand and two of the "Scottsboro" prisoners on the other, 70 miles north of Birmingham, in which the deputy was cut with the knife and the deputy was cut with a knife and one of the prisoners shot by the sheriff, is another regrettable chapter in this long and bitter tragedy.

Alabama will be stigmatized anew as a lynch State; it will be falsely charged that the prisoners were the victims of official brutality—indeed there will no doubt be insinuations here and there that the officers shot in cold-blood and without provocation.

Fortunately there will be a ready answer to this institution. However careless the officers may have been in not searching the prisoners before beginning the long journey to the Birmingham jail, the fact remains that they acted with coolness and restraint when the crisis came. They might have drilled all three prisoners and left them dead. They did not. The sheriff shot Ocie Powell, who had cut the deputy. The other belligerent was quickly subdued without injury, the third, innocent, apparently of any part in the desperate attempt to escape, was unharmed. Two are now in jail, one in a hospital where he is receiving medical care.

This is "just one of those things". It might have happened in Maine, it might have happened in California. Race prejudice had nothing to do with it. Unfortunately it happened in Alabama, most unfortunately the affair involves some of the principals in the "Scottsboro" case.

Columbia, S. C. State
January 29, 1936

"Fair Womanhood of Alabama."

In the course of duty, however imminent the nausea, one must glance over the proceedings of the trial at Decatur, Alabama, of those involved in the "Scottsboro case."

But something we would like to know is not there revealed. And that is, what is in the minds of Alabama's honest women when they hear the prosecutor declare in high pitched voice and red hot fervor that he is discharging his duty for the sake of "the fair womanhood of Alabama."

It seems to us, that on the strength of the recorded facts, the fair womanhood of Alabama should protest with indignation.

AT LAST, a real united front in support of the Scottsboro boys. In the new trial which is about to begin, the defendants will be aided by a committee on which all shades of opinion will be fairly represented, from left to right. Every effort is being made to avoid, in carrying on the defense, the risk of rousing once again the Southern prejudice against Northerners or communists, and to conduct the courtroom proceedings on a basis of the facts alone. While it is hard to believe that a jury can be found, after all this time, that will be truly without prejudice, the new orientation of the defense is important for several reasons: first, because the sole effort will now be to get an acquittal; and second, because coöperation of widely divergent groups in this case holds an encouraging promise of similar coöperation on other and equally urgent matters.

New Republic
1-29
New York, 1936

Birmingham, Ala. News
January 25, 1936

Radical Groups Attack Shooting Of Negro In Auto

~~Sheriff McDuff Friday~~ night and Saturday morning was besieged with telegrams and telephone calls from radical organizations in New York, condemning the shooting of Ocie Powell, Scottsboro Negro, and demanding punishment of his assailant, Sheriff J. Street Sandlin.

A telephone call was received Friday night at the sheriff's office from the International Labor Defense offices in New York, but the sheriff was not in his office and a deputy took the call. This legal department of the Communist party in America demanded protection for the Scottsboro Negroes and punishment of the officers.

Saturday morning a telegram was received by the sheriff from the International Workers Order, which stated:

"We strongly condemn shooting of Scottsboro boy, Ocie Powell. We shall hold you personally responsible for safety of all the boys. We demand punishment of the assailant and immediate and safe release of the innocent Scottsboro boys."

Meanwhile representative of Paramount and Pathe picture news services were seeking to make talking pictures of the Scottsboro Negroes in the jail. Sheriff McDuff declined to permit Dick Bolton, Paramount cameraman, and Oscar Goodman, Pathe News cameraman, to go into the jail and photograph the Negroes. The sheriff, however, allowed them to make pictures of the County Jail entrance through which the Negroes were brought Friday afternoon when they were returned from Decatur.

Lynchings - 1936
Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama

5363

Samson, Ala., Ledger
February 6, 1936

THIS SCOTTSBORO CASE

The Ledger has had little to say editorially about the so-called "Scottsboro" case. To us it was just another trial of alleged attackers of women, for which the Alabama law provides capital punishment if the jury so determines. We were perfectly content to let the negroes have a fair trial, having faith in the judgment of the jury.

All the negroes' constitutional rights as to fairness of trial and adequate legal representation were preserved in our judgment, although the supreme court of the United States twice reversed the conviction of Patterson, selected by the state as a typical case. All the objections of the court have been met by Alabama, the negroes have been adequately protected while in jail and during the trial, and we see no reason for the attitude of International Labor Defense or other organizations which have tried to make these alleged criminals into martyrs to white vengeance.

For years we have observed the treatment negroes in Alabama courts, and are satisfied that they have received the same rights and the same justice as white men accused of similar crimes. We say this because we, while born and raised in the North, have tried to judge the attitude of all people with the same justice and lack of prejudice that we would ourselves wish to have had we been arraigned at the bar.

If there has been any difference in the representation of negroes before the courts it has been because as a class they have not the money to hire a brilliant army of lawyers to devise defence. But we do say that we have never seen any laxity on the part of the attorneys who have represented them as counsel, not have we ever detected any discrimination in the attitude of the presiding judges between white men accused of crime and negroes similarly accused. The judges have protected their rights indiscriminately.

We well recall the only capital case on which we sat as a juror. The twelve men on their first ballot decided unanimously that the accused negro was not guilty because we did not believe the evidence proved his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. There was no discussion whatever of the accused's race in the jury room. Had the attitude of the jury been that so often attributed to southern white men by troublemakers, we might have found the defendant guilty.

But what we wished to discuss about the Scottsboro case is not whether the negroes received a fair trial, but the attitude asumed by organizations outside the state. We believe a lot of the furore raised about the case has been started by Communists who saw a chance to undermine the ordinary institutions of our form of government.

These agitators are not uneducated people, talking just out of prejudice. On the contrary they are mostly well-educated folks, trained in the finest details of stirring up trouble. We do not believe they care a whoop about the life or freedom of the negroes accused of the Jackson county alleged crime.

They simply see a chance to undermine the justice of the courts and to weaken confidence in fairness of trials. That the case in question occurred in Alabama is just one of those things. An alleged crime of equal publicity occurring in California or Massachusetts would have been seized upon just as eagerly. In fact a Massachusetts case of a similar nature was used by these agitators for a similar purpoe. This was the Sacco-Venzetta case.

These men were of Italian birth, accused of a horrible crime, and they were convicted. Their case received much much publicity. The Communists seized upon it and led thousands of people to protest and demand freedom for the criminals. So effective was the agitation that organizations in foreign lands protested. Even a boycott against United States goods was threatened in some countries. Threats were made against the trial judge, members of the jury, the governor of the state and others connected with or having remote connection with the case.

Another case used by agitators was that of Eugene V. Debs, a radical labor leader, who was convicted during the World War of infractions of the federal laws in advocating armed resistance to the draft. So far did agitation go that Debs was actually, while in prison, nominated for president of the United States by a radical party and did receive more than a million votes.

The ways of the Communist are subtle and many. In the present instance, many thousands of well meaning, educated, law-abiding people have been persuaded that Alabama is persecuting the nine negroes in question. The recent unfortunate affair where two of the negroes in the case who were being conducted from Decatur to Birmingham attacked the two guards, wounding one severely, and one of the negroes was shot, was misrepresented as an attempt to lynch the Scottsboro negroes.

Even the later unfortunate cremation of 20 negro convicts in an accidental fire was twisted into an attack on negroes by brutal law employes and because it happened in Jackson county, was connected by unthinking people into a connection with the Scottsboro case.

Mass psychology is a strong weapon and the Communists thoroughly understand its use. Scottsboro cases are nuts for them, and it is wonderful what use they can make of them.

[illegible] OF SCOTTSBORO DE[illegible] COMMITTEE HOLDING CONFERENCES IN B'HAM

A group of white and Negro leaders met at the Y. M. C. A. (white) Wednesday to hear Dr. Chalmers of New York, who came to Birmingham at the request of Bishop McDowell to go over the defense future of the Scottsboro boys with local people interested in the case. 2-16-36

Dr. Alexander was made chairman of the meeting and he had Dr. Chalmers state the point of his mission here, after it was decided that that was about all the group could do. Rev. Chalmers, who is a southerner by birth and education, said in substance that the National Scottsboro Defense Committee, composed of the N. A. A. C. P., The American Civil Liberties Union, The I. L. D. and the Federal Council of Churches, had come to an agreement that the Red portion of the National Committee—the I. L. D., a Communist affiliate, would have to take subordinate position. He said the Communists say they have gotten all out of the case they can. And further that they can not save the boys.

He said in view of the sectional prejudice and politics which have gotten into the case along with many other things and the lack of a desire on the part of the [illegible] Committee to exploit, that [illegible] Committee would in all probability throw Liebowitz out of the case insofar as it is concerned. If the white and black people—the best class, could be found in sufficient numbers, citizens who believe [illegible] the innocence of the boys and who will follow the defense right to the end on that premises, just as seriously as the prosecution is doing, that not only would the committee throw [illegible] it would [illegible] committee [illegible] black people.

Oscar Adams held that justice would not be had in Morgan county no matter who defended the boys. Bishop Shaw, plead for a white-black defense based upon the inability of the Negro, to in any way, defend himself in the south and in the prosecution of such a course for the sake of them if for no other reason.

Among the others present were Mrs. Bryant of the Negro Y. W. C. A., Dr. D. F. Thompson, Dr. E. W. Taggart, McPherson, Messrs. Robt Sims, Walter Jones, William Mitch, Rev. Grayom Lacy, Harry [illegible], several white women and several white men whose names were not secured.

Mr. Watts, the southern attorney for the defense was present. He told of his disbelief in the guilt of the boys and showed in a very pointed and vivid way how it would have been impossible for the boys to have committed the crime. He said his previous belief was confirmed after he had read the records in the case. Mr. Watts feels that the case would have been settled long ago, if the newspapers had dared to print the truth.

He offered what he called the [illegible]. He said [illegible] of the [illegible] carried Ruby Bates to a Tennessee [illegible] for an immoral purpose. That the two women were stumbling with two men friends and that in the car next to them the defendants were also hoboing—[illegible] ten in the car at various places some [illegible] the other [illegible]. And [illegible] showed [illegible] the white [illegible] train and secured some rocks threw them into their car from which they threw them into the Negro car to chase them out [illegible] dodging for quite a while [illegible] to go over [illegible] later was a star witness in the [illegible] case and who has been recently convicted of (?) moral turpitude in Tennessee and given a stiff penitentiary sentence. Mr. Watts said after the third termination of the fight, the attack charge was framed for obvious reasons. Mr. Watts said Negroes don't [illegible] fight with whites—they know better. True, too.

He went on to state that the [illegible]

[illegible] physicians of his own [illegible] in spite of the fact that the women had said they had been bruised about the face and head the physician found only a pin scratch on the arm of one of them.

He pointed out that the boys and the women involved were of questionable character and that he was in the case because he thought that the best white people of the south should be in the case on some plan such as is suggested by Chairman Chalmers. And further that he is being paid by the Federal Council of Churches in America. Mr. Watts paid a high tribute to Negroes of Huntsville.

It would seem to your correspondent that in the interest of seeing that even justice is done that Dr. Chalmers has put the better class of southern whites and blacks in a very delicate position. It seems that he is reasonably sure of the rest of the Committee agreeing to let a purely southern set-up handle the affair if it is sure that such a committee first believes the boys guilty on the evidence and it seems that if such a group can not be found who will follow through, that the present committees will have to carry on.

Several other group meetings are being held and it is thought that after Bishop McDowel makes his position known, it can be determined what the future course will be.

The Communists have failed, they admit it. They have taken a subordinate position. Whether they will remain in that position or not no one can say. The south is faced with a challenge. It has been asked to do what many southerners have held as the best [illegible] course. Judge Horton took this course alone, it cost him his judgeship. The status of the boys and the state of Alabama and the whole south if you please is on trial before the world.

It appears to me that it might be the better thing for the work of the present committee to be strengthened by the cooperation of a like committee of southern whites and blacks who have a like faith in the innocence of the accused.

Prejudice must be done away with. Sectionalism must go. Politics must be thrown over. If these things are not done, [illegible] how the case terminates, sectional hate, racial hate, class hate, and radicalism, socialism, communism touching actual and legal is going to increase—sweep the nation.

And what's further this is going to be a mighty hard place for any one to live and be happy in. So let's face facts—[illegible] all possible to have the boys tried and convicted or acquitted on the merits of the case alone.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
June 11, 1936

COUNSEL PLAN TOLD TOO SOON

Dr. Edmonds Says Group To Keep Working On Scottsboro Case

Dr. Henry M. Edmonds, Birmingham clergyman and chairman of the Alabama Scottsboro Committee, issued a statement Wednesday night regretting "premature release" to the press of plans for obtaining Alabama lawyers to represent the Scottsboro case defendants, but expressing hope the plan could still be worked out.

The release Dr. Edmonds referred to was a press dispatch from Montgomery, Tuesday afternoon, naming a number of prominent Alabamians associated with Dr. Edmonds as members of the Alabama Scottsboro Committee and disclosing the plan whereby Alabama lawyers would displace out-of state counsel for the Negroes.

Under the plan Samuel Liebowitz and any other out-of-state lawyer would retire voluntarily from the case and the Alabama Scottsboro Committee would call on the Alabama State Bar Association to suggest Alabama lawyers for the Scottsboro defense.

Committee Is Ready

Dr. Edmonds, who expressed opinion that prejudice can be allayed and justice secured more speedily if the defense is in the hands of the best available Alabama lawyers, said in his statement Wednesday that the Alabama committee is ready to proceed and complete negotiations if possible.

The statement follows:

"It was unfortunate that the statement of June 10 from Montgomery regarding the effort to secure Alabama counsel for the Scottsboro cases should have been given to the press, inasmuch as it was premature and may prejudice the success of the efforts of the Alabama Scottsboro Committee.

"No action has really been taken except partial formation of the committee and a tentative approach to the Alabama Bar Association to ascertain if they could suggest counsel or at least name a panel from which the committee might make its own choice of lawyers to cooperate in the defense.

Requests Made

"We were proceeding upon repeated requests, both personal and by correspondence, from the Scottsboro Defense Committee of New York to form a state group of representative men and women, who would assume in the name of the citizens of Alabama the responsibility for naming local defense counsel to cooperate with Mr. Clarence Watts, of Huntsville, already associated with the defense. Such counsel was to be acceptable to the New York committee as well as to ourselves.

"The delicacy of the situation has been from the first apparent to us all, both here and in New York. Nevertheless, we were just about to reach a mutually satisfactory understanding upon which a public statement could have been made, when the communication with the Bar Association was given to the press without the knowledge or consent of either the Alabama Scottsboro Committee or of the president of the Bar Association.

"We hope, even now, that this untimely release will not prejudice the situation. We are still ready to go ahead and complete the negotiations if possible, because we are still of the opinion that prejudice can be allayed and justice secured more surely and more speedily if the defense is in the hands of the best available Alabama attorneys.

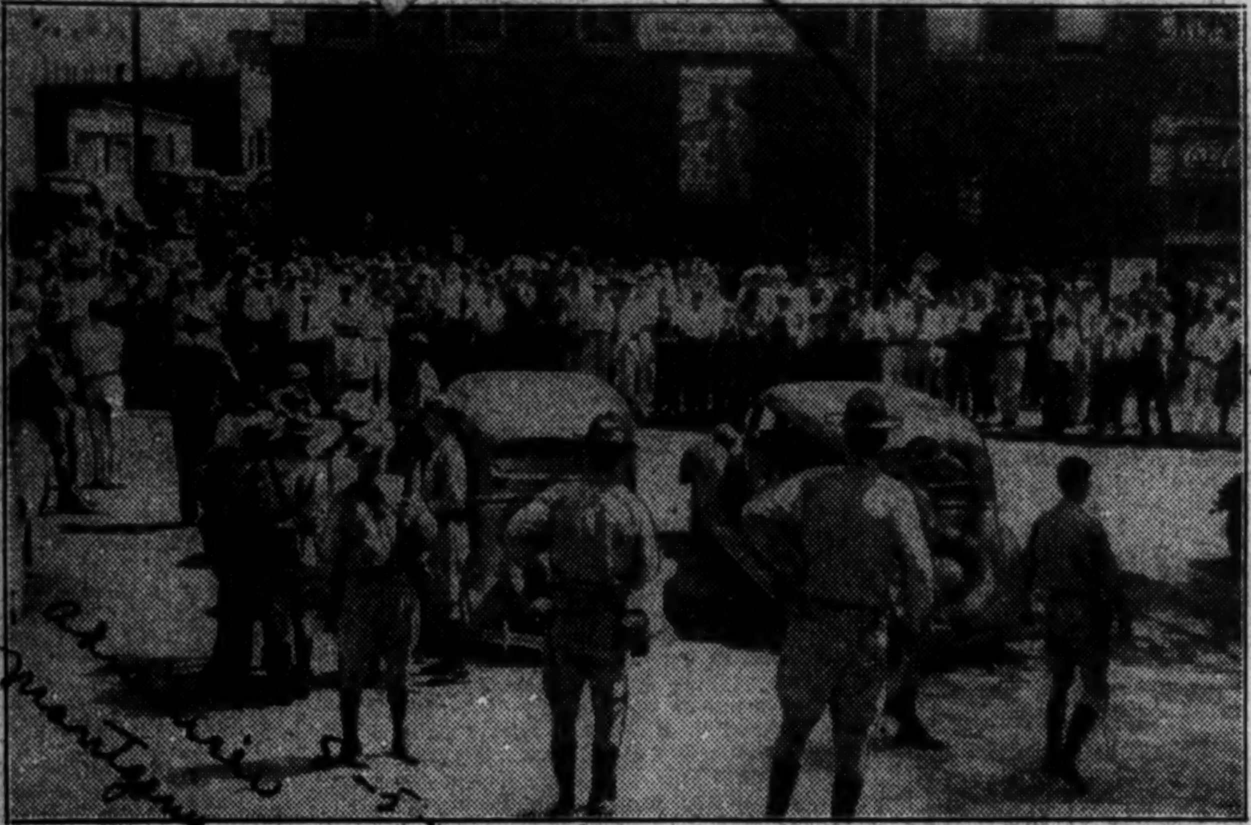
"HENRY M. EDMONDS,
"Chairman, Alabama Scottsboro Committee."

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

5364

Guardsmen Watch Crowd As Negro Is Tried



NATIONAL Guardsmen are seen in front of the Anniston courthouse keeping a crowd backed across the street as Roosevelt Collins, negro who recently eluded a mob, is tried for criminally attacking a white woman. The court was thrown into wild commotion when the woman's husband brandished a gun while the negro was testifying. The jury, out only 20 minutes, returned the death verdict. Collins was returned to Kilby Prison early Tuesday morning by the guardsmen. (Associated Press Telemat photo.)

Death Sentence Given Negro In Anniston Attack

Verdict Comes Soon After Husband Waves Pistol At Defendant On Stand

Seized By Officer

Courtroom Thrown In Wild Commotion By Incident; Execution Date Sept. 4

By A. F. MAHAN, JR.
Associated Press Staff Writer

ANNISTON, ALA., Aug. 3—(AP)—A death sentence was meted out today to Roosevelt Collins, negro accused of attacking a white woman, shortly after the woman victim's husband, Joel Hill, brandished a pistol in the court room.

Judge R. B. Carr set the execution date as Friday, Sept. 4. The jury deliberated 20 minutes.

National Guardsmen started immediately with the negro for Kilby State Prison, Montgomery. Court spectators were required to remain seated as Collins was removed.

Hill suddenly produced a revolver, throwing the court room into wild commotion, as the negro testified in his own behalf. A state highway patrolman, on guard duty with state troops, seized the gun which was not fired. Militiamen rushed the negro into an ante-room.

Officer Orders Quiet

As excitement swept the court spectators, a guard officer mounted the judges stand, shouting:

"Everybody stay where you are! Don't move!"

Hill drew the pistol just as Collins had testified he approached Mrs. Hill near her farm home in a rural area, and "asked her and she started walking into the woods with me."

The woman, as the first witness against the negro, had testified he attacked her.

By the quick action of troops, patrolmen and local authorities, order soon was restored and the trial proceeded. Hill was removed from the courtroom. How he got into the chamber with the gun was a mystery, as everyone entering, including newspapermen, had been searched for weapons.

Mistrial Overruled

Local attorneys, appointed by the court to defend the negro, quickly sought a mistrial on the sensational courtroom development, but their motion was overruled by Judge R. B. Carr.

Collins, on trial for his life, was arrested here three weeks ago after two-days of brush thrashing in the outlying Alexandria community by armed citizens and National Guardsmen. Mrs. Hill's story of the attack and the prolonged search gripped this city in a fever of racial feeling, and militia stood guard here several days as a precaution.

The negro, Mrs. Hill told the jury today forced her into a woods near her home in the Alexandria community. She said Collins, armed with a shotgun, approached her as she worked in her garden.

Three companies of militia, highway patrolmen and local authorities took rigid precaution, to prevent a recurrence of the tense racial situation precipitated three weeks ago by the arrest of the negro after a two day hunt by armed citizens and guardsmen.

Notwithstanding, court convened today in an air of tensity and under a plea from Judge R. B. Carr that "all fair minded citizens cooperate with the law." Persons entering the court room were searched, and once leaving were not allowed to return.

Local attorneys, appointed by the court to defend Collins, sought a change of venue, but were overruled.

Negroes On Jury List

Two negroes were on the prospective jury list, but were excused by agreement. When Collins was arraigned two weeks ago his counsel sought to quash the indictment against him, on a contention names of negroes were not contained in the box from which the jury was drawn. Court attaches denied the claim.

Collins was moved here early today from Kilby Prison at Montgomery in a National Guard ambulance accompanied by 50 troopers. Two other National Guard companies, from Birmingham and Talladega, were stationed about the court house.

The city was quiet, however, as the negro was brought in.

State authorities announced Collins had confessed shortly after he was placed in Kilby Prison for safekeeping. At his arraignment, however, the negro pleaded not guilty.

Husband Tells Of Withholding Shot At Negro

ANNISTON, ALA., July 3.—(AP)—Called to the court dais for judicial upbraiding, Joel Hill told Judge R. B. Carr today "caution" of God restrained him from endangering other lives by firing in open court at a negro subsequently convicted of attacking Hill's wife.

Hill threw the court spectators into a near panic as he drew a revolver while Roosevelt Collins, negro, testified in his own defense against charges he assaulted Mrs. Hill.

Officers seized the husband.

If a shot had been fired at the negro before he mounted the witness stand, four reporters, a policewoman and a dozen spectators would have been endangered.

Answering the reprimand from Judge Carr, with the crowded courtroom tense, Hill said:

"Why it was a straight shot from where I was sitting and I could have shot him any time after I brought the gun in under my pants at dinner—but look what was behind him. God cautioned me and I waited until he got in the witness stand and I laid plans."

"I figured out I'd run up to the witness box and shoot down through his body—like this," he showed the judge, officers and the court spectators.

The judge told the man, who said "I lost all reason," he was in contempt but no punishment was given "under the circumstances."

Hill said he was "glad it came out as it did." He thanked the officers, at suggestion of the jurist, for restraining him.

Anniston Judge Asks For Order

Carr Appeals To Citizens On Eve Of Hearing For Accused Negro Attacker

ANNISTON, ALA., Aug. 2—(AP)—An appeal for "all fair minded citizens to cooperate with the law" was voiced tonight by Judge R. B. Carr, on eve of the trial, under state militia protection, of Roosevelt Collins, negro accused of attacking a white woman.

Arrest of the negro in July, after two days of brush beating in a nearby rural area, rebounded in a fever of racial feeling here, and guardsmen were called to keep order.

Judge Carr said he had "heard about a good many threats" but that he anticipated "no trouble whatever," in the face of the elaborate precautions by the county and state.

Troops will transport Collins here in the early morning hours from Kilby Prison at Montgomey where he has been held for safekeeping, and where state authorities reported he confessed the offense against the white woman.

In addition to the assignment of troops, precautions included concentration of ten state motorcycle patrolmen here, and Judge Carr said the patrolmen and eight local bailiffs probably would take station in the court room, as the state troops patrol the area outside, during the trial.

"We have to have law and order," the jurist stated. "Nothing can be accomplished by riots or mobs.

"The majority of those who comprise mobs are irresponsible people who will act on impulse, and under such conditions there likely would be danger to innocent people. I appeal to all fair minded citizens to cooperate with the law and give the law an opportunity to adjust these serious conditions in our county and state."

Local counsel has been appointed to

defend the negro. Brought here by guardsmen in the early morning a week ago, the negro pleaded not guilty. This was after authorities said the woman attack victim identified him and he was reported to have confessed. The woman will be a principal witness tomorrow.

The strained situation in this county, Calhoun, was aggrevated last week as a girl in a rural section reported a negro approached her and made an improper proposal. Armed possemen began a search and guardsmen were called. The man, however, made a getaway.

COLLINS MUST DIE IN CHAIR, JURY DECREES

Death Verdict Is Climax To Sensational Trial At Anniston

HUSBAND WIELDS GUN

Attempts To Kill Negro As Defendant Tells His Story To Jury

By William B. Huie

ANNISTON, Aug. 4.—The Roosevelt Collins case was a matter of history today with the Negro back in Kilby Prison to await execution for the ravishment of Mrs. Joel Hill, 28-year-old mother of three children.

High feeling reached its climax during Collins' trial here yesterday when Joel Hill, husband of the victim, lunged for a concealed gun and attempted to shoot the defendant on the witness stand.

Patrolman Blocks Shooting

Four highway patrolmen piled on Hill as he wrenched the gun from his breeches leg and prevented his firing. National Guardsmen forced excited spectators to return to their seats and averted a courtroom riot.

The husband made his desperate move as Collins, in a low monotone, told the details of the attack in a lonely woodland during her husband's absence from home.

Hill leaped from his chair at that point and it took Circuit Judge R. B. Carr an hour to eject Hill from the courtroom under guard, to restore order and to hear and overrule defense motions for a mistrial.

150 Guards On Duty

"We have 150 National Guardsmen and 25 highway patrolmen here to help us preserve order," Judge Carr declared. "I recognize the deep human emotions involved, but we are going to see that this defendant gets a fair trial if it takes our lives."

As the trial was resumed, defense counsel announced that the defendand waived his right to testify in his own behalf. Collins, however, turned to his court-appointed counsel and asked that he be allowed to proceed "if the gentlemen will protect me."

Virtually surrounded by highway patrolmen and with an augmented force of guardsmen spaced in the crowd, Collins took the stand again and repeated his defense of the charge.

Sticks To Story

Under a vigorous cross-examination by Circuit Solicitor J. B. Sanford, Collins held doggedly to his story, denying Mrs. Hill's testimony that he had menaced her with a shotgun, that he had stuffed a handkerchief in her mouth, or that he had tied a coat over her face.

"Why did you run when you saw white men approaching you afterward?" the solicitor sneered.

"I thought maybe she had broken her promise and told them about it," Collins answered.

Collins is a slight Negro, weighing about 145 pounds. He admitted that he had served time in Kilby Prison for burglary.

The defense submitted its case to the jury without argument, and the state summation was brief. The jury retired at 4:25 p.m., and returned the death verdict 20 minutes later.

Collins told the judge before sentence was passed that "the truth hasn't been told in this case."

Judge Carr set the execution date at Sept. 4. He will be electrocuted.

After Collins was whisked away, Judge Carr called Hill before him and severely reprimanded him in open court for "trying to take the law in your hands."

"I couldn't help it, Judge," Hill declared. "I started to kill him twice this morning but there were two newspapermen sitting behind him, and God kept telling me that I might kill one of them. I planned to rush up to him on the stand before I shot, so I wouldn't hurt anybody else."

Everyone who entered the courtroom was supposed to have been carefully searched, and there was no explanation as to how Hill secured his gun. He indicated to reporters that the gun had been given him in the courtroom.

The state's case was built around Mrs. Hill's testimony that the Negro forcibly ravished her, corroborated partially by testimony from other witnesses that they had heard her scream from the field where she was working and had seen the Negro pulling her into the woods.

In arguing for a continuance or a change of venue at the start of the trial, defense counsel contended that an alleged attempted assault of a white girl by a Negro near Ohatchee last week had so inflamed Calhoun County that Collins could not be given a fair trial.

NEGRO TO BE EXECUTED IN ATTACK ON WOMAN

Victim's Husband Attempts To Shoot Defendant in Courtroom.

ANNISTON, Ala., Aug. 3.—(AP)—A negro accused of attacking a white woman was convicted and sentenced to die today shortly after the victim's husband created a sensation by brandishing a pistol in the militia-guarded courtroom.

Judge R. B. Carr set the execution date for Friday, September 4. The jury deliberated 20 minutes.

National guardsmen immediately started with the negro, Roosevelt Collins, for Kilby State prison at Montgomery. Court spectators were required to remain seated until they had left with him.

The woman's husband produced the pistol while Collins was testifying in his own behalf. There was a moment of wild commotion as a state highway patrolman seized the weapon. It was not fired.

Militiamen hurried the negro into an anteroom and order was restored.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama

5365

TORONTO, CANADA
~~GLOBE~~ Star

JAN 31 1936

DON'T MIND EVIDENCE WHEN IT IS A NEGRO

From the New York Times

ONCE more a white Alabama jury has brought in a verdict of guilty in the case of the negro youth Haywood Patterson, charged with attacking a white woman. But this time something—a lingering doubt regarding the evidence, a twinge of conscience, fear of an irrevocable act—impelled the jury to fix a sentence, not of death, but of imprisonment for 75 years.

No one who has read the reports is likely to believe that the trial of Patterson was fairly and impartially conducted. True, this time there was a technical compliance with the order of the supreme court that negroes must be made eligible for jury duty. Out of a panel of 100, five were negroes (the proportion of colored to white population in Alabama is about one to two), but these were all eliminated by the state, and the final jury was composed, as hitherto, entirely of white men. The reports of the newspaper correspondents seem to lend ample support to the contention of the defence attorneys that Judge Callahan, in his conduct of the trial, was "irritable" and "impatient" toward the defence, and that his comments tended to "minimize the importance of evidence offered for the defendant." The words of Melvin C. Hutson, the local prosecutor, summing up, are almost incredible: "Don't go out and quibble over the evidence. Say to yourselves, 'We're tired of this job,' and get it behind you. Get it done quick and protect the fair womanhood of this great state." But once more the attorneys for the defence will appeal to the higher courts, and there is still hope for a trial in a more judicial atmosphere.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
January 26, 1936

Scottsboro Nemesis

As if the Scottsboro cases were not already sufficiently bedevilled by sectional bias and racial miasma, a mysterious cutting and shooting affair involving one of the Negro defendants and a white officer of the law, has supervened to poison the cases a little more. A relentless Nemesis seems to be in pursuit, heaving a monkey wrench into the machinery of justice every time it shows signs of slight functional improvement.

Three of the Negro defendants, manacled and chained together, were being transported by automobile from Decatur to Birmingham for safekeeping when, according to Sheriff J. Street Sandlin, one of them—Ozie Powell—made an attack on Deputy Sheriff Edgar Blalock with a knife. Sandlin thereupon "dropped" Powell with a bullet in the head. The deputy suffered what appears to be a minor cut in the neck. Powell is in a hospital where he is given an "even chance" to recover.

So contradictory and excited are the charges and counter-charges made in explanation of this extraordinary fight, that it is hardly worth reviewing them. They range from Sheriff Sandlin's theory that white plotters instigated the attack on Blalock, to Powell's reported explanation that he attacked the officer because he had heard him say that he was "going to kill us." None of them seems credible. The truth about this affair may prove as difficult to fix as the truth about what happened in the notorious box car in 1931, but there is no escape from the necessity of plumbing the episode to the bottom. Until more is known about the origin of this extraordinary fight between manacled and supposedly unarmed prisoners and armed escorts, the inflamed explanations of the moment are to be held at arm's length as probably incorrect.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
EVENING UNION

FEB 4 1936

THE SCOTTSBORO CASE

Handling of News in Case Seen as Of Vital Public Interest.

To the Editor of The Union

Sir: A matter of vital public interest is the handling of the news by the press in the case of the Scottsboro boys.

To appreciate only partly the situation we wish to point out the following:

Nine human beings — more specifically — nine poor Negro boys — are being threatened with death for a crime that is recognized by millions of fair-minded people as a threadbare cover in the frame-ups for legal and extra-legal lynchings of Negroes in the South.

This barbarous tradition affects the lives of 12 million Negro citizens and outrages the sense of justice in (let us hope) a majority of the white population of our country.

The very institution — trial by jury — is a recognition of the legitimate democratic right of the public to pass opinion on the guilt or innocence of the accused. Indeed, it is the public which pays the cost and is (theoretically) the authority in whose interest the prosecutor and judge are supposed to be acting.

We had hoped that details of the case — from which an informed public could form an opinion — would be found in your paper, as we consider the press not only a reflector, but also a former of public opinion.

It would certainly have been very informative news to the readers of your paper to know about the statement made by Capt. R. A. Burleson (a lifelong native resident of Morgan County, Ala.) in regard to securing an impartial trial: "There is cold and deliberate crystalization of sentiment against the defendants." He should know, as he was in charge of the militia in a previous trial of these boys.

The defense of the nine Scottsboro boys is becoming of interest to wider and wider circles of our population. May we hope, as we do expect, to find your pages open for the widest exposition of the facts in this important case, to the end that an aroused and informed public will see to it that these boys are set free?

L. A. CARLETON,
Secretary League of Struggle for Negro Rights.
New York, Feb. 3, 1936.

Nat'l. Bar Head Asks Shooting Investigation

Journal & Guide

Addresses Protest To Roosevelt And Gov. Bibb Graves

2-8-36

Norfolk, Va.

CHICAGO— Two telegrams of protest, in which he asked for an investigation of the shooting of Ozzie Powell, Scottsboro prisoner and pointed out that such a shooting by officers might lay the foundation for revolution by Alabama Negroes, were sent last week to Franklin D. Roosevelt and Gov. Bibb Graves of Alabama by George W. Lawrence, president of the National Bar Association.

In the message to the President, Atty. Lawrence stated:

"The shocking incident which occurred at Decatur, Alabama, when one prisoner, handcuffed to two others was shot down by an officer of the State of Alabama because of an alleged attack upon him, would suggest that the protection of life and the equal protection of the law guaranteed to citizens of Alabama by the Constitution of the United States does not extend to colored citizens in custody of the law charged with the commission of a criminal offense.

"As president of the National Bar Association, I am requesting you to make an investigation of this brutal assault so as to bring the perpetrator and the Governor of Alabama, who commended him, to a sense of their responsibility as law enforcing officers. Otherwise, such offenses might lead Negroes in Alabama and other States where such practices are condoned to the conclusion that they can only look to themselves for protection and thereby lay the foundation for revolution."

In the communication to Gov. Graves, the bar leader asserted:

"As Governor of the State of Alabama you took an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States. It provides that, "No State shall deprive any person of life or liberty without due process of law nor shall it deny him the equal protection of the law.' The shocking incident that occurred at Decatur, Alabama, when one prisoner, handcuffed to two others was shot down by an officer of the State because of an alleged attack upon him, would suggest that the protection guaanteed to the citizens of Alabama by our Constitution does not extend to colored citizens in custody of the law, charged with the commission of a criminal offense.

"As president of The National Bar Association, I am requesting you to make an investigation of this brutal assault and see that the perpetrator is properly punished so as to bring to the law enforcing officers a sense of their responsibility. Otherwise, such offenses might lead Negroes in Alabama to the conclusion that they can only look to themselves for protection and thereby lay the foundation for revolution."

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.
NEWS

FEB 3 1936

"Get It Over With"

"DON'T go out and quibble over the evidence," roared the young prosecutor to an Alabama jury at the fourth trial of Haywood Patterson, one of the Scottsboro Negro defendants. "Say to yourselves 'we're tired of this job' and put it behind you. Get it done quick, and protect the fair womanhood of this great state!"

One of the jurymen called out: "Let's come back tonight and get it over with!" They and Judge Callaghan sentenced Patterson to 75 years in prison.

From this and from charges of bias hurled at the judge by the defendant's local counsel, it appears that the seven other defendants are to be tried in the same atmosphere of passion as has marked the other trials. Last week's shooting certainly will not lessen that passion.

These trials have stirred Alabama for nearly five years. Twice the U. S. Supreme Court has interceded in behalf of the "due process" which it said was denied the Negroes. We do not blame Alabama for wanting to "get it over with."

But this is not the way. Alabama may think she can put this ugly case behind her by sending all the defendants to the gallows or to prison for life. But unless she deals them justice—exact and impartial and free from race prejudice—the case will plague her, just as the Mooney case has plagued our own state for 20 years.

Justice cannot live in an air surcharged with violence and hate.

**BALTIMORE, MD.
MORNING SUN**

FEB 1 1936

The Scottsboro Case

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* Following the year 1929, whence we date the advent of depression, this country became aware of a vital movement along its highways. American youth, frightened by the sudden poverty which had invaded their homes, had sought the open road and the tramp of their roving feet became a part of our depression consciousness.

The sound of the tramping of nine of those youthful wanderers, undisturbed, might never have reached us, but, changed to a hopeless shuffle within the confines of Alabama prison walls, the echo of those halting steps have fallen upon the ears of the world.

The Scottsboro case has given the world a new revelation of race prejudice, and the possible travesties in the administration of what we term "law." The latest news of this Alabama jurisprudence reports one pair of those ill-fated feet sentenced for a term far exceeding the ordinary span of life to the State penitentiary and another (unless death has been kind) must follow the aimless impulses of a bullet-pierced brain.

The Scottsboro case, as it stands out in all its horrible inhumanity, epitomizes the prejudice which in many forms is accorded the American ~~Negro~~. A redeeming sequel to this glaring example of biased administration of the law could be a new spiritual attitude in this country toward this minority group.

Sarah Collins Fernandis.

Baltimore, Jan. 30.

**DECATUR, ILL.
HERALD**

FEB 1 1936

Another Scottsboro Case.

Alabamans have resented interest of Northerners in the Scottsboro case involving the fate of nine Negroes charged with a mass assault on two ~~white~~ women. The Scottsboro case has been tried and retried and the condemned men have been defended by legal talent from New York. There are many angles to the case, but one reason for a series of convictions may be the disposition of Alabamans to show their dislike for interference by interests outside the state.

Now Alabama is again in the news and again the dateline is Scottsboro. Twenty Negro convicts were burned to death when trapped in a truck used for the transport of prisoners from penitentiary to the highway project on which they worked under guard. Only two of a human cargo of 22 escaped with their lives from the flames fed by a drum of gasoline which overturned as the truck jolted along the road.

But while Alabama is under condemnation for brutality to prison inmates, Illinois goes about the investigation of serious charges that convicts are pampered and granted privileges hardly afforded by those outside prison walls.

**Salt Lake City, Utah
UTAH TELEGRAM**

FEB 4 1936

The Shame of Eight States

Tuskegee institute's department of records and reasearch finds that 1935 goes down in history with 20 lynchings—five more than in 1934.

The 20 lynchings occurred in eight states: Florida, California, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

Let us hope civilization will make a better showing in those eight states in 1936.—Cleveland News.

SIOUX FALLS, S. D.
Leader

EB 3 1936

Twenty Negro convicts were burned to death in Albama while being transported in a truck. The Negroes were in an encaged portion of the vehicle when a drum of gasoline caught fire. It is well that the tragedy be carefully and thoroughly investigated. Life was just as dear to these Negroes as to other individuals and they were entitled to the same safeguards that would have been employed in the case of white prisoners. Some nasty stories have emanated from the South in the past in respect to the treatment of Negro prisoners.

Guide Newsman Tells Of Ill Winds That Blew Him Big Breaks In Alabama

By ALBERT L. HINTON
Journal and Guide City Editor

Norfolk,

2-8-36

DECATUR, Ala. — There is a saying among members of the craft that the newspaperman's constant prayer is that he be allowed to be on the scene when something big breaks in the way of news. And by the same token is it said that such a state of affairs is the greatest break that can come to a newsman.

If the statements be axiomatic then it must necessarily follow that I am the luckiest newspaperman alive—certainly the most fortunate of the craft of my race.

In its issue of January 25 my newspaper related that "the Journal and Guide is the only Negro paper represented by a staff correspondent at the Scottsboro trials in Decatur, Ala."

Suffice it to say that the statement concerning the Journal and Guide being the only weekly represented at the trials was and is true. Until Friday morning, January 24, when the trial of Clarence Norris was scheduled to start, the writer was the only Negro reporter here. On that day however, another newshound of color blew in from Atlanta, Ga., but as luck would have it (his luck), Norris' trial was postponed indefinitely together with all the other Scottsboro trials. Speaking of breaks!

OTHERS ARE LATE

On Sunday night, January 26, another newsman appeared as though by magic but of course, there were no trials to cover. But in the meantime the alleged escape attempt of three of the boys had been made while the group was being returned to Jefferson County jail in Birmingham and being in Decatur where a part of the story originated, each of us was able to get something on that.

But my point is simply this. Dispatched originally to Decatur to cover the Scottsboro trials, I have through sheer luck, or otherwise, been either on the scene or within easy driving distance, of three of the most significant and important news breaks of the year and in one instance I was the only reporter of my kind anywhere near the scene.

It can be said that it was nothing more or less than sheer luck because but for the extremely inclement weather which kept me marooned in Decatur for more than a week after the trials, I would have been safely at home when "opportunity" knocked at my door.

NEWSMAN'S "LUCK"

It was just pure luck, bad or otherwise, which was responsible for my being here when Ernest Merriweather, 22-year-old drug store delivery boy, was arrested and charged with having smuggled into the Morgan County jail the knives with which Ozzie Powell and Roy Wright are said to have made their desperate bid for freedom during the last transfer of the Scottsboro defendants to Birmingham following Haywood Patterson's conviction and the subsequent postponement of the remained of the celebrated trials.

And by the same token, it was more luck that I happened to still be in Decatur when the youth was released because local authorities were not able to connect him in any way with the knife smuggling charges. On that occasion I was able to interview Merriweather and obtain his side of the story, his impressions of the Morgan County jail, and his reaction to his arrest, among other things.

It is only fair to say however, that all this time at least one of the other newsmen was also "at the scene of the crime," so to speak, and was able to share therein.

ON THE SPOT

When news came of the purported escape attempt of Wright, Powell, etc., near Cullman I believe my paper was among the first to get the news. A brief flash to the Decatur Western Union office was the first indication that anything was wrong. A messenger boy was dispatched to my home immediately to ask if I could use the information. Could I use it? Could I breathe? Could I eat when I'm hungry? Could I run if perchance a mob made me take to my heels?

Could I use it? I could—and did. With the few meagre details at the messenger boy's disposal and his statement that the WU superintendent was then at Cullman trying to get some facts, I dashed off a bulletin and sent him hurrying back to his office, to follow immediately myself. I had already been extended an invitation to stand by at the local office and to use whatever information came through that channel direct from the scene of the trouble.

CULLMAN TOUGH

I had a car, and I must confess my first impulse was to jump in it, step on the gas, and go to Cullman. But luckily, I had a talk with one or two local residents and the net result was that I definitely DID NOT GO to Cullman. I was told, among other things, that up to a few years ago, Negroes were not even allowed to live in Cullman; that even now, the only colored residents of that thriving North Alabama community of approximately 2,500 inhabitants are those who work in the local hotel as domestics, that when the L. & N. railroad double tracks were being run through that district in 1912, fifteen Negro workmen were routed out of their quarters one night and the quarters burned to the ground because of some interracial mixup.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

5366

Gasoline Ignites Chain Gang Truck Near Scottsboro

Daily Worker
2-1-36

Locked Truck a Roaring Inferno as Victims Seek to Escape Flames—Two Others Burned But White Guards Are Unharmed

SCOTTSBORO, ALA., Jan. 31 (UP).—The deaths of twenty Negro convicts, who were burned in a prison automobile truck near here today, were declared accidental this afternoon by Coroner W. R. Ward.

By Arnold Williams

SCOTTSBORO, Ala., Jan.31:—Scottsboro, already notorious for its attempt to railroad nine innocent Negro boys to the electric chair, was today the scene of another tragedy involving Negroes.

Twenty convicts, all of them Negroes, were burned to death in a prison truck near Scottsboro. The two white guards in charge of the convicts escaped unhurt except for minor burns on face and hands. Two Negro convicts were saved, but they were severely burned.

The disaster occurred between Scottsboro and a chain-gang camp on Lee Highway to which the convicts were being taken for road work. So-called "good" convicts in Alabama are transported in open trucks. The twenty-two prisoners involved in this tragedy were so-called "bad" convicts. As such they were transported from prison to road work in a steel cage on wheels.

Cage Was Locked

Inside the cage locked and bolted from the outside were twenty-two Negro convicts.

In a manner which no one has [illegible], fire started in the truck and the flames ignited a thirty-gallon drum of gasoline on the roadside. The white guards now claim that the first they knew of any trouble was when they heard cries of help from inside the cage-truck. The guards, seated safely at the wheel, looked around, they assert, and saw that the truck was on fire. They say they halted the car, ran around to the rear and unlocked the door of the cage.

Two of the Negro convicts, already severely burned, leaped out. The remaining twenty, caught in a roaring inferno of flaming gasolene, were beyond rescue, according to Middlebrook and Wasson, the white guards. By the time the fire engines arrived, the burned bodies of the twenty Negroes in the cage were beyond recognition. Ambulance doctors who arrived on the scene of the tragedy said that the two rescued Negroes would not recover. They were, however, rushed off to a hospital.

Near Site Where Powell Was Shot

Guard Middlebrook hastened to issue a statement to the effect that though the Negro convicts were "bad" they were not manacled because the steel cage in which they were transported was considered sufficient insurance against their escape.

The twenty Negroes were burned to death in their steel trap in the same region where Ozie Powell, Scottsboro defendant, was shot in the face by the white sheriff who had him in custody.

In Montgomery, Governor Bibb Graves ordered an "investigation" of the burning to death of the twenty Negro convicts. The Governor's recent "investigation" into the shooting of Ozie Powell resulted in official congratulations to Sheriff J. Street Sandlin of Morgan County, who fired the shot into the Scottsboro boy's brain. The new "investigation" will be conducted by Hamp Draper of the State convict department, responsible for the chain gang cages.

SCOTTSBORO JUDGE IS ACCUSED OF BIAS

New York, N.Y.
New York Times

Negro's Counsel Allege Comments From Bench Make Just Verdict Impossible.

1-22-36

MISTRIAL MOTION REFUSED

Patterson Case Is Likely to Go Today to Jury, Devoid of Negroes.

By F. RAYMOND DANIELL.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 21.—Less than five hours after a jury of white farmers had been chosen to try Haywood Patterson, a Negro, for rape of a white woman, his lawyers moved for a mistrial today, accusing Judge William W. Callahan of infecting the jurors with the same bias and prejudice which they charged him with showing.

C. L. Watts, a Southern lawyer brought into the Scottsboro case by Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief counsel for the defense, accused Judge Callahan of making it impossible for Patterson to receive a fair and impartial verdict from a jury which had heard his comments from the bench and seen his "irritable" and "impatient" attitude toward the defense.

Defense Taken Unawares.

From that time on Judge Callahan made fewer comments of the type to which the defense had objected. Soon afterward, however, Lieut. Gov. Thomas E. Knight Jr., as special prosecutor, rested the State's case. Mr. Watts protested that after the nine-hour session in the fetid courtroom he was unable to go on and properly protect his client.

Somewhat testily, Judge Callahan brushed the attorney's plea aside and insisted that the trial must go on. It was then five minutes past 5. When Mr. Watts explained that the sudden resting of the State's case had caught him unawares, so that he had no witnesses available except the defendant, Judge Callahan accused him of failing to exercise "proper diligence" in getting his witnesses to court.

Then Judge Callahan directed Mr. Watts to place Patterson on the witness stand, despite the protest of the attorney that he did not want to call the man whose life is at stake in this drama of politics, ambition and prejudice, until other witnesses had prepared the way with testimony.

Patterson was not long upon the stand, however, for after a few questions had been put to him, another witness appeared and was allowed to take his place.

The dramatic move of the defense which may provide a peg on which to hinge another appeal to higher courts which three times have saved Patterson from execution in the electric chair, came soon after the State, through the testimony of a guard at Kilby prison, succeeded in getting on the record, an alleged oral "confession," from the gawky Negro.

New Confession Alleged.

After Victoria Price, the complainant in the case, had told her story for the eighth time before a jury, Obie Golden, a sleek, dark-haired young man in a neat blue serge suit, was called to relate the strange story of how Patterson confessed to him while his appeal from his last conviction was pending in the Supreme Court.

The State tried once before to get a "confession" on the record by calling a white inmate of Kilby prison to the stand but that effort was balked by Judge James E. Horton, who presided at that trial. Today, however, Judge Callahan, over the objection of the defense, let Golden, the prison guard, tell his story to the jury after first hearing it in their absence.

Golden said that "sometime between Nov. 20 and Nov. 25, 1934," Patterson hailed him from his death-house cell while the guard was making his hourly inspection about 8:15 P. M. Patterson asked him to call the warden, Golden said. The guard explained to Patterson that the warden would not be available until the next morning at 6:30, but according to him, Patterson blurted out a confession then and there.

As near as he could remember, Golden testified, the Negro said "I'm guilty of the crime—also Clarence Norris (another defendant) and them other seven up at Birmingham. What can you do for me?"

About that time, Golden said, Norris, in an adjoining cell, overheard Patterson's remarks and accused him of lying. Prompted by Thomas Lawson, one of the attorneys for the State, Golden recalled that Patterson had been specific about which crime he was confessing by saying he was "guilty of messin' around with them girls." Lest there be any doubt, Judge Callahan asked the witness if it wasn't true that the only crime for which Patterson was being held was the attack on Victoria Price. Golden said it was.

Testimony Kept on Record.

Mr. Watts and Mr. Leibowitz moved to strike the testimony from the record, but all they accomplished was to obtain from the bench a direction to the jury to disregard that part of the testimony relating to Norris. Patterson, sitting behind his lawyers, glared balefully at the witness, who, even under cross-examination, rarely turned his head in the direction of the stoop-shouldered Negro.

Cross-examined by Mr. Leibowitz, Golden testified that he did not regard Patterson's statement as of great importance at the time and although theer were writing materials in the Negro's cell, it never entered the guard's head to have him reduce the "confession" to writing.

Golden said he had not reported the incident to Mr. Knight and had never spoken to the Lieutenant Governor until last Saturday, when he was told he would be a witness. It never occurred to him to make any written note or record of Patterson's alleged statement.

When the trial reopened today the five Negroes who remained on the panel of 100 when the peremptory striking of names began were all eliminated by the State, so that the jury, as finally selected, consisted entirely of white men. Morgan County had conformed to the latter of the law against exclusion of Negroes from jury service and still barred Negroes from actually serving on a jury.

The Jurors Seated.

These are the jurors finally selected:

Leo Bennett, a farmer, of Priceville.

Addie L. Cain, a farmer, of Somerville.

Louis E. Field, a carpenter, of Danville.

M. E. Lawrence, a farmer, of Somerville.

Alex H. Williams, a farmer, of Somerville.

John Burleson, unemployed, of

Hartselle.

Mack M. Johnston, a farmer, of Somerville.

Claud P. Johnston, a farmer, of Somerville.

Binford A. Lawrence, a farmer, of Somerville.

Marvin Norris, a farmer, of Somerville.

William [illegible] Roden, a farmer, of Somerville.

James E. Story, a farmer, of Somerville.

Mrs. Price, who on cross-examination admitted that she had been married twice and that her legal name was "McLendon," was the first witness. Dressed in a dark woolen dress, silk stockings, black oxfords and a tan velvet jacket she glibly recited the bare outline of the attack which she says she suffered at the hands of a dozen Negroes aboard a freight train on March 25, 1931.

She was allowed to say that Ruby Bates, who recanted her charge of rape against the Negroes, was with her and that the two of them "bummed" their way to Chattanooga and back on freight trains.

Judge Callahan refused to let the defense inquire further. He shut off as "immaterial" answers to questions about what companions the girls had on their hoboing expedition, what they did in Chattanooga and virtually everything else upon which the defense relies. Judge Callahan holds that under Alabama law it makes no difference whether the complainant in the case was of doubtful virtue.

Mr. Watts, in cross-examination, succeeded in developing several contradictions of the woman's earlier testimony regarding the number of Negroes who struck her and the extent of the visible injuries she received on the train.

Court Scorns Evidence.

The State then called a string of farmers to describe the fighting they had seen aboard the freight train. Under cross-examination they all placed Mrs. Price beside a car far from the one in which she declares the attack took place.

Mr. Leibowitz sought to have a witness indicate which car was referred to by pointing out one of a toy train before the jury. This train, which was used in all other trials held here, was an exact reproduction of the one on which the alleged attack took place, but Judge Callahan had refused to accept it in evidence earlier on the grounds that there was no proof that it was arranged in the same order as the real one.

"It won't help any one to see anything," he had said. "It will just delay things more and add another delay to the trial."

R. S. Turner, conductor of the real train, testified that the model was an exact reproduction. Judge Callahan was not satisfied, however, and with a series of confusing questions tried unsuccessfully to trip him up.

In an attempt to establish the exact position of the two white women in relation to where the Negroes were found, Mr. Leibowitz asked the conductor a question about the average length of the freight cars. Judge Callahan, who earlier in the day had interposed an objection on his own account and sustained it, although the State made no objection, cut short the examination.

"That strikes me as enough of that," he said. "We are magnifying things that are not particularly important."

"If the court please, we except to that," said Mr. Watts, who had to repeat the statement three times before Judge Callahan indicated that he had the faintest notion of what the lawyer meant. Soon after that Mr. Leibowitz asked for a recess and invited the judge, the opposing lawyers and his colleagues to a conference in a witness room.

Judge Callahan looked sizzling mad when he came back. Mr. Watts in a voice hardly audible said:

"On behalf of the defendant, I now move for a mistrial on matters already stated in court to which exception was taken."

"You mean what has transpired—the attitude of the court?" demanded the judge.

Mr. Watts said he meant exactly that.

"I must confess that I can't see anything that I've done that's wrong," said Judge Callahan, "but if there is anything I've done that's wrong I'll try to rectify it. I think you will have to be more specific about it though. I am entitled to that much consideration."

Mr. Watts explained that he felt that comments of the court "tending to minimize the importance of evidence offered for the defendant," had made a fair trial before this jury impossible. The defense attorney went on to say that Judge Callahan by his "irritable" and "impatient" manner, his repeated comments to the effect that defense counsel were "trifling and wasting time," were all calculated to prejudice the jury.

"I haven't been irritable," said Judge Callahan, "and if I've made any such statements as that I didn't know it. If I've made any mistakes I'll rectify them."

"The record contains many instances of the type of thing to which I refer," replied Mr. Watts.

"Well we'll stand o nthe record, then," retorted Judge Callahan denying the motion and telling the jurors not to concern themselves with anything but the evidence in the case.

If he had made any mistakes, he told them, they could be corrected in the Appellate Courts. He went on to say that Mr. Leibowitz's questions were designed to contradict Victoria Price. The court held she already had been contradicted.

This brought an objection from Melvin Hutson, Solicitor for Morgan County, who protested that the question of whether she had been contradicted or not was one for the jury to decide. Judge Callahan said he probably should not have said that and added that he meant the effort at contradiction had been pursued to its logical limit.

It was indicated as court adjourned that Patterson's case would go to the jury tomorrow. The trial of Clarence Norris is scheduled to open Thursday.

New York Evening Post

JAN 23 1936

The Issue Behind the Scottsboro Trials

There are Southerners as well as Northerners who, in their hearts, regard the reopening of the Scottsboro trials at Decatur, Ala., as little more than legal lynching.

In this group can probably be counted an Alabama Judge—James E. Horton, who presided over one of the previous trials and before whom Haywood Patterson was condemned to death.

Judge Horton ordered a new trial in the Patterson case. His opinion handed down at that time tore to shreds the rape case against the nine Negro boys.

His careful, painstaking review of the evidence proved conclusively that Victoria Price, on the basis of medical examination made an hour after the alleged attack, could not have been raped on the train; that the Negroes had not committed rape; that Victoria Price made a practice of false rape accusations to serve her own ends; that the rape story was suggested to her and to Ruby Bates by officials when the train was halted; that she was utterly unreliable as a witness; that there was no corroborative testimony.

He pointed out the withdrawal of Ruby Bates as a complaining witness, and her recantation of her own rape story.

Yet this is the fourth trial in all, the second *after* Judge Horton's devastating opinion. Lieutenant Governor Thomas E. Knight Jr., original prosecutor who has made a political career of the Scottsboro case, is again the State's attorney, and is again driving forward for nine legal lynchings. Carleton Beals has described the shameful conduct of the present trial to POST readers.

On the basis of Judge Horton's opinion, the question is no longer one of the guilt or innocence of the Negroes.

The real issue is whether Alabama will succeed in her drive to keep the Negroes a subject people, not entitled to ordinary human rights.

Jackson, Miss. Ledger
January 29, 1936

Facts Show Shooting Justified But Many Will Claim It Plotted

Governor Bibb Graves, after his own investigation, said that the Alabama officers who shot one of the "Scottsboro case" negroes only did their duty and "are to be commended."

Unbiased outsiders have held the same opinion, basing it on the press reports of the incident, these press reports revealing that the negro had bought a knife and used it on one of the guards in an effort to escape. The Associated Press even quoted the wounded man as stating to reporters that he had obtained and used the knife. A bad wound inflicted on one of the guards also was impressive evidence.

Despite this weight of evidence supporting the guards' action in shooting the negro, it is probable, if not certain, that thousands in other parts will believe and contend that the shooting was planned and unjustified. This is more or less inevitable because of the long notoriety given this case and the mass of propaganda, unfavorable to Alabama law and justice, that has been spread over the country.

That can't be helped, and Alabama probably won't worry over it.

Personally, we think that the best proof that the shooting was not planned is the fact that the negro is still living. He not only was spared after he was shot down but was given the quickest and best possible medical aid.

Mobile, Ala., Register
January 22, 1936

A LEGAL NUISANCE

The unjustly famous and much-too-publicized "Scottsboro trial" is fast becoming the same legal thorn in the side of Alabama that the Hautpmann trial has been to the state of New Jersey.

There is no point in commenting on the relative merits and demerits of the defendants or the plaintiffs. That has been thoroughly analyzed long before this. We feel, however, that a majority of Alabamians are of the opinion that the whole thing should be completely closed, for better or for worse, as soon as possible. It has already become too much of the national laughing stock that was the Scopes "monkey trial" in Dayton, Tenn., back in the "roaring twenties."

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
January 28, 1936

Mrs. Leibowitz Says Lawyer's Wife Leads Interesing Life

Mrs. Samuel S. Leibowitz and her daughter Marjory.

By NELLIE KENYON

The life of the wife of a nationally known criminal lawyer is "just as interesting, fascinating and exciting as that of a newspaper reporter," thinks Mrs. Samuel S. Leibowitz, whose husband is chief of defense counsel in the Scottsboro case.

Mrs. Leibowitz is always just as much interested in the outcome of her husband's legal battles as he is himself. She reads everything published about them, discusses the various angles with him and watches anxiously for the final outcome.

Mrs. Leibowitz said here Saturday afternoon she had always found the newspaper profession interesting.

"You never know where your work will take you, but you know it will always be interesting. The same is true of the life of a criminal lawyer," she laughed.

Mrs. Leibowitz is particularly interested in the Scottsboro case. She has read much about it. "Of course, I am deeply interested in this case. It has attracted national attention. It is a very unusual case. I think most of the others I have heard have been very much the same. I don't think I ever had a greater thrill than when I sat in the United States Supreme Court and heard Mr. Leibowitz argue the appeal motion. It was a sight I shall never forget," she said.

Mrs. Leibowitz was sitting in the Hotel Patten lobby waiting for a telephone call from her husband. They were returning to their home in New York Friday night when Mr. Leibowitz learned through The News when he reached Chattanooga of the shooting of one of the Scottsboro Negroes. He canceled their drawing room reservations, spent the night in Chattanooga and returned to Birmingham on an early morning train Saturday. Mrs. Leibowitz and their 12-year-old daughter, Marjory, together with Mr. Leibowitz's associate, William Richter, remained in Chattanooga.

Dressed in a stunning bottle green ensemble with accessories to match, Mrs. Leibowitz was found to be gracious and modest of manner. "I suppose it comes natural to be the wife of a well-known lawyer, because I have just grown into it. He wasn't famous when we married sixteen years ago, so I have watched his progress step by step."

Mr. and Mrs. Leibowitz have twin sons. They will be 16 next September.

Thomasville, Ga.. Times-Enterprise
January 24, 1936

TH[illegible] SBORO CASE

A negro, Patterson, was convicted of attacking a young white woman on a train in Alabama. This is the fourth conviction, in each previous trial the verdict having been death. This time the jury found him guilty and in the state of Alabama fixed the penalty at seventy-five years in prison.

This is perhaps the most amazing reversion that has yet been registered. The case was bitterly contested by various organizations, attempting to exploit negro political efforts, but the result was the same in the three —guilty. Any negro found guilty of assaulting white women, no matter where or how or when, deserves death and any jury that would deliberately pardon a negro convicted thrice and then some for that offense, must either have been terribly cowed or were weak enough not to understand the import of tne decision.

The other negroes who gangeu up on the girl or girls will go to trial and as in this case they will get light sentences for that form of crime. That, however, may not end the matter for it is sure to stir up resentment, the like of which has not been found in any section of the south in some years, regarding this crime. Its effect will be widespread and we fear more terrible than is now imagined. While it is not proper or just or even decent to hang this man because of the effect of the decision of leniency on others, it is certain that if juries give such sentences and courts can haggle over cases for years and bring on three to four trials for the same offense the people of certain sections of the south will become unstable insofar as the punishment for this crime is concerned. It has a [illegible]

Oneonta, Ala., Democrat
January 30, 1936

The noted Scottsboro case is still in the head lines. Haywood Patterson, one of the negroes charged with assaulting a white woman, was tried at Decatur last week and convicted. He was given a term of seventy-five years. The trial of the other negroes was continued. As they were being returned to the Birmingham jail one of them slashed the throat of a guard with a knife. He was shot in the head and wounded by the Sheriff of Morgan county. Two others of the negro prisoners were in the car with the Sheriff and the guard. Officers say the negro who was wounded admits that they had planned to escape. Two of the negroes had knives that they had secured while in jail at Decatur. They had picked a lonely spot on the mountainside near Lacon for their attack. Had it not been for the cool-headedness of the Sheriff and other officers who arrived on the scene, all of the nine negroes, some of whom were in other cars, would now be dead. The officers are to be commended.

FRONT ROYAL, VA.
NORTHERN VA. DAILY

JAN 17 1936

THE TRAGEDY OF SCOTTSBORO

(Richmond Times-Dispatch)

Now, that the motion of defense counsel for a transfer of the Scottsboro case to the United States District Court, has been overruled, the defendants will be tried before Judge W. W. Callahan at Decatur, beginning January 20, unless the Federal court is prevailed upon to assume jurisdiction, or a change of venue is granted.

As we stated in these columns last month we view the prospect of these trials with grave anxiety. At the time, it appeared that Samuel S. Leibowitz of New York would again conduct the defense. That fear has now been confirmed. True, he has associated Clarence Watts of Huntsville, Ala., with him, but this probably will do little to ally the violent prejudice which exists in Alabama against Leibowitz and the International Labor Defense, the Communist affiliate which retained him in the first place.

A Scottsboro Defense Committee has been formed since we published our previous comment on the case, and some Northern observers feel that this committee can do much to assure a fair trial to the defendants. We cannot agree. Organizations represented are the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, American Civil Liberties Union, International Labor Defense, Methodist Federation for Social Service, and League for Industrial Democracy. At least three of these organizations are regarded as radical by most Alabamians, and the International Labor Defense is strongly suspected of trying to expoit the case for its value as Communist propaganda. We shudder to think of the effect which the intervention of these organizations will have in arousing the prejudices of the Alabama jury.

Efforts were made for months to persuade the I. L. D. and allied groups to place the efense in the hands of Alabama attorneys, but without success. It is understood that the defendants were convinced by the I. L. D. that their interests lay in the retention of that organization and Leibowitz. Thus it was impossible to make any other arrangement.

Our feeling is that this action on the part of the Communists has done more to insure the conviction and execution of the nine innocent negro youths, that anything that could have happened. The case has been sent back to Alabama twice by the United States Supreme Court, and apparently all constitutional loopholes have not been plugged by the Alabama authorities. The result, we feel almost certain, will be the conviction of the defendants, and their ultimate execution. After all, that may be just what the International Labor Defense desires. The Scottsboro defendants in their graves will be more useful to them for propaganda purposes than the Scottsboro defendants acquitted.

But it is a tragedy of the first water that the judicial processes of Alabama and the entire South—the region's sense of fairness and justice—should be brought into disrepute, and nine innocent negroes sent to the electric chair, because of the unwillingness of a Communist group to relinquish the defense to Alabama attorneys. We should say the chances of an acquittal under existing circumstances are about one in 10.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel
January 28, 1936

In the Headlines Again

The Scottsboro shooting affair broke at just the psychological moment to revive a rapidly slipping interest in the nth trial of several Alabama Negroes for the alleged attacking of two white women on a freight train. Folk outside Alabama, noting that the International Labor Defense group had worked mightily for the Negroes, only to succeed in making Alabamans angry, and that the Supreme Court had branded the previous trials as unfair, had about made up their minds that Alabama would find the usual Southern way of dodging both the Communist organization and the rulings of the Supreme Court. And being without a vote in the matter, they were constrained to let it go at that.

Now comes the story of the shooting to get us all to thinking once again of Scottsboro and the tragic spot occupied by colored folk in the socio-economic life of the South. The conviction must be that there's little to be done with reference to the isolated case, but a world to be done to the preclusion and avoidance of similar cases. Scottsboro is symbolic of a condition of unhealth in our social life. We have grown apathetic toward the case as such, because, under the peculiar circumstances attendant upon it, it is almost bound to take a certain course. But our attention should be focused by it upon the underlying causes which make our Scottsboros possible—and upon ways and means of destroying these causes.

Fayetteville, N. C., Observer
January 28, 1936

AN INFAMOUS CASE.

The infamous Scottsboro case which has dragged along in the courts these four or five years has now been featured by one of the defendants going berserk and cutting an officer's throat, getting in return a couple of bullets in his hard head.

We say an infamous case because in it appear to have been centered and magnified all the manifold weaknesses inherent in American jurisprudence, all the weaknesses which go to make the American courts the laughing stock of the criminal element of the country.

Race prejudice, political chicanery, legal legerdemain, class hatreds, Communism, witness bribery, and other unnamed laches have entered into the case and prolonged it longer than serves the ends of justice or decency.

It has reached the point from which no outcome will serve any good purpose.

In England the case would have been disposed of in six weeks at the most.

In America it promises to last six years

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
February 1, 1936

THE SCOTTSBORO HOLOCAUST

The awful tragedy enacted in Scottsboro, Ala., when twenty Negro convicts perished, trapped in a transfer truck, in which a drum of gasoline had taken fire from a piece of burning paper, comes as a climax to a series of deaths by fire in this section of the South.

The Christmas season is usually attended with firehazards of multiplied number, but the tragedies in the last few weeks have not been especially traceable to holiday fireworks or to the flimsy materials associated with Christmas trees and the visit of Santa Claus, but rather resulting because of weather conditions. They have, however, been in sufficient number to justify a renewed warning against carelessness in every form, which may have a fiery aftermath.

In this case it seems a Negro prisoner, an occupant of a transfer truck, lighted a piece of paper to warm his hands and the harm was done. Apparently he was one of the victims of the resulting conflagration.

The death of prisoners in fire always carried with it a special note of horror. In this case only two of the consignment of Negro convicts occupying the truck were saved through the efforts of the guards who themselves suffered painful burns, the dispatches say. The others perished in the holocaust.

ANOTHER CHAPTER IN A BITTER TRAGEDY

The fight between a sheriff and his deputy on the one hand and two of the "Scottsboro" prisoners on the other, 70 miles north of Birmingham, in which the deputy was cut with the knife and the deputy was cut with a knife and one of the prisoners shot by the sheriff, is another regrettable chapter in this long and bitter tragedy.

Alabama will be stigmatized anew as a lynch State. It will be falsely charged that the prisoners were the victims of official brutality—indeed there will no doubt be insinuations here and there that the officers shot in cold-blood and without provocation.

Fortunately there will be a ready answer to this institution. However careless the officers may have been in not searching the prisoners before beginning the long journey to the Birmingham jail, the fact remains that they acted with coolness and restraint when the crisis came. They might have drilled all three prisoners and left them dead. They did not. The sheriff shot Ozie Powell, who had cut the deputy. The other belligerent was quickly subdued without injury, the third, innocent, apparently of any part in the desperate attempt to escape, was unharmed. Two are now in jail, one in a hospital where he is receiving medical care.

This is "just one of those things". It might have happened in Maine, it might have happened in California. Race prejudice had nothing to do with it. Unfortunately it happened in Alabama most unfortunately the affair involves some of the principals in the "Scottsboro" case.

THE SCOTTSBORO VERDICT

For the fourth consecutive time an Alabama jury has convicted Heywood Patterson, one of the seven negro defendants charged with rape in the so-called "Scottsboro case," that has been dragged through the courts now for nearly five years.

Those who are most familiar with the facts in the case are convinced that the verdicts have been justified by the evidence, and it is time that outside meddlers should let Alabama attend to its own affairs.

Public sentiment throughout the state is in accord with the verdicts of the juries and the sentences that have been imposed for the crime of which Patterson was convicted, and there is, naturally, resentment against the attitude of outsiders

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eeking to dictate to the state how t should dispense justice.

Some of those who have interested themselves in these cases are sincere in their belief that this group of negroes have not received fair and impartial trials—but the chief reason actuating the radical organizations that have seized upon the Scottsboro cases to launch a nation-wide hue and cry is the opportunity presented to raise a huge "defense" fund for their own ends.

The demand that this group of defendants be freed, regardless of the verdicts of the courts, has been voiced chiefly by subversive organizations which advocate principles radically at variance with the doctrines upon which the American government is based.

Within the past year these radical organizations have been withdrawn from the limelight of the case, but they are still primarily responsible for continuation of the effort to tell Alabama how it shall conduct its affairs.

The significant comment of the New York lawyer who is now chief counsel for the defense that the latest conviction will be fought "with all the resources we can command," will be the basis for a demand for more funds, and so long as the financial resources hold out, these outside meddlers will continue to misrepresent Alabama.

Those who, through ignorance or misinformation, are sincere in their support of these efforts should realize that the activities of the New York Scottsboro defense committee are doing the cause they espouse more harm than good.

Athens, Ala., Democrat
January 30, 1936

Sheriff Street Sandlin and the other officers with him in their ride to Birmingham are to be commended for the wonderful self-control they exhibited last Friday afternoon when one of the "Scottsboro boys" slashed the throat of one of Sandlin's deputies.

Statesville, N. C. Daily
January 24, 1936

Those Scottsboro negroes are either guilty or not guilty and it ought not take five years to determine which it is.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama.

5368

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
NEWS

JAN 22 1936

Another Revival of the Scottsboro Farce

THE fourth trial of Haywood Patterson, one of the defendants in the Scottsboro, Ala., rape case, is again under way.

And once again Victoria Price, one of the two white women suppose to have been attacked in that railroad gondola by seven Negroes, retold her story of the assault as the first witness. A story which Ruby Bates, who originally corroborated it, has since repeatedly denied, explaining that she had perjured herself because of intimidation. The latter has further testified that neither she nor her companion had been attacked.

In short, this trial is in almost every respect identical with the three that have preceded it, even to the exclusion of Negroes from the jury, which resulted in Patterson's conviction and sentence to death, all of which were ultimately set aside by higher courts.

Since the same reasonable doubts and same prejudices exist that existed before, it is impossible to see how this trial can have any different results than its predecessors. And under the circumstances it is impossible to see how anything short of a discharge of the case can eventually put an end to this legal endurance test. The laws in Alabama are the same as all others where a reasonable doubt exists.

PATTERSON HEARS PRICE TESTIMONY

Daily Worker 1-22-36

Trials of Wright and Norris Set—Prison Guard Testifies

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 21.—A motion for declaration of a mistrial on the basis of prejudicial remarks by Judge Callahan, in the trial of Haywood Patterson, was asked late this afternoon by Defense Attorney Clarence L. Watts. Callahan denied the motion and instructed the jury that his remarks were not to be considered as evidence.

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 21.—At 10:40 this morning an all-white jury was sworn in to try Haywood Patterson, one of the nine Negro boys in the Scottsboro frameup.

Twelve Negroes drawn in the original jury panel were one by one eliminated by the prosecution. Judge W. W. ("Speed") Callahan, before whom Patterson was previously convicted and sentenced to death, openly showed his prejudice against Negroes when he jim-crowed five Negroes drawn in the first venire by ordering them to sit in special chairs away from the whites.

The jury consisted of eleven farmers and one unemployed man. The eleven farmers are: Cleo Benich, Route 2, Decatur; Addie L. Cain, Route 2, Somerville; Louis E. Field, Route 1, Danville; M. E. Lawrence, Route 3, Somerville; Mack M. Johnson, Somerville; Alex H. William, Route 3, Somerville; Claude P. Johnston, Somerville; Benford A. Lawrence, Somerville; Marvin Norris, Route 3, Decatur; William H. Roden, Route 3, Somerville; James E. Story, Hartselle. John Burleson, of Hartselle, unemployed, was the only non-farmer on the jury.

All Are Sworn

The twelve good men and true picked to try Patterson had all individually sworn, under questioning by Clarence L. Watts, defense counsel:

That they had no prejudice against Negroes; and that the statement of a white woman that she had been raped by a Negro would have no effect on their giving proper consideration to the evidence in the case in arriving at their verdict; that what other juries have done in the past, the fact that Patterson is being tried a fourth time; the fact that the prosecutrix is a white woman and the defendant a Negro, or fear of criticism from former friends or neighbors, would have no effect upon their consideration of the verdict; that they would not require any more proof of innocence fro ma Negro defendant than from a white defendant.

Victoria Price, who has in four successive trials testified that she was "raped" by Patterson and by the other Scottsboro defendants, was called to the stand as the first state witness at 10:48.

Under questioning by H. S. Bailey, Jackson County solicitor, she repeated her five-year-old story of "rape," the fight between Negro and white boys on the train.

Haywood Patterson, who had watched the selection of a jury carefully, leaned forward and followed every word of testimony eagerly.

Victoria Price testified that Patterson came into the gondola car where she, Ruby Bates, and seven white boys were riding, waving a pistol, at the head of a band of Negroes, shouting "Now all you white sons of bitches unload."

She said they drove the white boys off the car, that she tried to get off, was pulled back by Patterson. Then, she said, Patterson pulled off her overalls, tore her step-ins, took a knife from her and held it to her throat, then raped her while another Negro, whom she did not attempt to identify held her legs, then, she said, five more of the defendants raped her.

Although this was not brought out in court, since the State did not go very far in its attempt to introduce the step-ins, defense counsel said they did not recognize them as the same step-ins that had been introduced at previous trials. These, it was said were of silk, whereas the others were of cotton.

The torn step-ins were offered in evidence, but Callahan sustained an objection, and after another attempt by Bailey to bring them in, he gave it up.

Replica Freight Train Used

For cross-examination, Watts set up in the courtroom the miniature replica of the freight train on which the Scottsboro boys, Victoria Price, Ruby Bates, and the companions of the two girls rode on that day on which Victoria Price said they were raped, and from which the nine boys, Price, Bates, Orville Gilley, and Lester Carter were taken at Paint Rock, Ala.

Callahan refused to wait a few minutes for a defense witness to identify the train so it could be used in the cross-examination of Victoria Price. The witness had just stepped out of the court for a moment.

Lieutenant Governor Thomas E Knight, whose right to act as special prosecutor in this case was challenged by the defense when the trial opened yesterday afternoon, took turns with Solicitor Bailey in offering objections. He grinned widely as his witness parried embarrassing questions.

Testimony Conflicts

"My face was scratched, my throat was scratched, my face was bleeding," she said. She did not remember her testimony in previous trials.

On the stand today she said that only Patterson struck her.

She does not remember, she said, that she swore at the last trial that "practically all of them" (the Scottsboro boys) struck her.

"There were scratches on my back, thighs, and all over," she said.

"Was there blood on your back?" Watts asked. "I don't know, I couldn't see back there," she said with a big smile to the house, which responded with a laugh.

Scratches on the inside of her legs, from ankles to crotch, across her breasts, and on her stomach, appeared in her testimony today which had never been heard of before in previous trials.

Is Aided by Judge

As in previous trials, she sought refuge in a monotonous repetition of "I don't remember," when confronted with contradictions between her own previous testimony and the testimony she offered today.

Once when she answered a question of Watts with "No" and started to add some comment, Judge Callahan came to her rescue with:

"Just answer his question, don't get into an argument with him cause he'll out-argue you, he's used to that."

Immediately after Victoria Price was excused from the witness stand, the State sprang its prize surprise witness, in the person of Obie Golden, guard at Kilby prison.

Golden has been a guard at the prison for two years. Previously he was a farmer in Tallapoosa County.

Jury Excused at First

The jury was excluded on request of Mr. Watts while Golden recited his testimony to the court the first time. Then the jurymen were brought in again and Golden leaning back in the witness chair, eyes half shut, recited his story.

He said, "I was night guard in Kilby around November last year and used to lock up all the cells. On or about Nov. 22—between Nov. 20 and 25—I was locking up one night about 8:15. Haywood Patterson called me: 'Captain Golden I want to talk to you a minute.'

"He said he wanted to talk to the warden. I told him the warden wouldn't be in until six or six-thirty next morning. I went on, he called me back.

"He said he was guilty and wanted to take what was coming to him—Norris also and the other seven. He asked if I could do anything to help him.

"I said I couldn't do any good.

"Then he and Norris started to quarrel and I told them both to shut up and went on out."

Under cross-examination by Attorney Watts he added that Patterson had said he was guilty of "that crime" with "them two girls."

Prompted at Testimony

Tom Lawson, assistant to the Attorney General of Alabama, who is assisting Knight at the trial prompted:

"Just to refresh your memory, didn't he say to you that he was guilty of 'messing with those girls?'"

When Watts raised objections to

New York Evening Post

JAN 22 1936

JURY PREJUDICED BY JUDGE'S WORDS, LAWYERS CHARGE

White Youth Expected to Deny Price Woman's Story of Train Attack

ATMOSPHERE IS SULLEN AT TRIAL IN ALABAMA

By CARLETON BEALS

Special Correspondent of N. Y. Post

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 22.—Failing in their effort to have a mistrial declared after accusing Judge William Washington Callahan of prejudice, attorneys for Haywood Patterson, one of the nine Negroes accused of attacking two itinerant white women near Scottsboro five years ago, opened their defense today.

They sought for the fourth time to convince an Alabama jury of twelve white men that Patterson should be set free.

Patterson is the first of the nine defendants to be retried since the United States Supreme Court set aside previous death sentences and ordered new trials.

Woman "Victim" on Stand

The State ended its case late yesterday after the motion for a mistrial had been refused. The principal witness among the ten who testified was Mrs. Victoria Price, one of the alleged victims. Ruby Bates, the other woman in the case, was not in court and it was believed she would not testify.

One of the principal witnesses for the defense, it was indicated, would be Lester Carter, a white youth, who was on the freight train on which the attack is alleged to have been made.

In adaition to accusing Judge Callahan of making remarks to prejudice the jury, C. L. Watts and Samuel Leibowitz, the defense attorneys, asserted he was continually ridiculing their evidence, and showing impatience and irritabilty.

Atmosphere Is Sullen

There was a genal atmosphere in the courtroom, but it gave way to a sullen harshness as the jury, consisting mostly of farmers, was sworn in, and the room filled up rapidly with a rough, unshaven, tobacco-spitting crowd, anxious to hear the salacious testimony of the Price woman.

The testimony of one witness, Opie Golden, a guard in the death house at Kilby Prison, is expected to strengthen the defense's appeal to the United States Supreme Court, should Patterson be convicted.

Golden said that in November, 1934, Patterson told him he attacked "them girls and was guilty and Clarence Norris and the other seven also were guilty."

Guard Admits Delay

Cross-examined by Liebowitz, the guard said he made no effort to get a written statement or to relay the oral confession to the prison warden until the next day. He said that when the warden went to the youth's cell, he refused to talk.

The defense objected to Golden's unsubstantial testimony, but Judge Callahan admitted it in Patterson's case. Then glancing at the spectators, apparently for approval, he said he would exclude it so far as it affected the other Negroes not now on trial. At a previous trial—Patterson has been tried four times—the prosecution sought t ointroduce a life term prisoner, who volunteered a similar "confession," but Judge Horton barred him as a witness.

WEARILY, THEY CONTINUE FIGHT FOR LIFE

Associated Press Photo

Seven of the nine Scottsboro defendants on their way to court in Decatur, Ala., where one of their number, Haywood Patterson, is again on trial for his life, charged with having attacked two white women hoboes. The defense attorneys accuse the trial judge of prejudice. A white jury is in the box.

the testimony, Judge Callahan overruled him, but added for the jury:

"But I will sustain a part of your objection. Anything he said about Norris being guilty, or about the other seven, is not evidence in this case, and you are not to consider it."

Samuel S. Leibowitz, entering into active part in the examination of witnesses in the present trial for the first time cross-examined Golden under this examination Golden stated that he had not gone any further than report the incident to the warden of Kilby. That he had not considered the matter of sufficient importance to get Patterson's alleged statement into writing. That when he brought the warden around next morning, Patterson did not say a word to him.

Wright Trial Set

Andy Wright was then brought forward and his trial set for Thursday, Jan. 30. A special veniere of 100 was also selected for this trial, by Judge Callahan.

Trial of Clarence Norris has already been set for Thursday, Jan. 23.

It was reported around the court, but could not be confirmed, that circuit Judge A. A. Griffith would sit in next week's trials.

Immediately after Golden stepped down from the stand, Judge Callahan had Charlie Weems brought into court and before the bench. He set the date for his trial for Monday, Jan. 27, and drew a regular jury panel of thirty-five, and a special panel of sixty-five for his trial.

Morris Takes Stand

Luther Morris was the next State witness. He repeated his story of seeing six white boys thrown off the train that passed his barn one and one-half miles west of Stevenson on March 25, 1931; of seeing Negroes throw them off, and two white women struggling with the Negroes.

The barn from which he observed this is on lower ground than the railroad right-of-way, he said, but the window from which he looked is twelve feet high, and consequently just above the road level. He did not explain how from a position just above the level of the tracks he could see what was going on in a half-filled gondola car, which above the wheels and trucks, has sides several feet high.

Alabama.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

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NEW YORK, N. Y.
WORLD-TELEGRAM

JUN 13 1936

WELCOME ALLIES.

THE reported formation of an Alabama committee to help the Scottsboro boys, long delayed though it be, is distinctly a milestone of progress.

The prominent Southerners on the committee, according to later report, are willing to co-operate with the general Scottsboro Defense Committee. The latter has indorsed and welcomed the local effort. It is a situation to inspire hope that the defense has received real re-enforcement.

Primarily, the only consideration is effective protection for these prisoners of prejudice and injustice. But underlying that is a point of technique for all similar cases, and in that it is essential to have Southern support.

Time after time in the past as some humanitarian agency from New York has intervened in a Southern civil liberties case—and such intervention ofter was necessary because no other rescuer was in sight—the immediate result was an aroused local pride and a natural stubbornness against Northern interference. Such has been true at Scottsboro.

The present Alabama committee represents an opportunity to get the case back to facts. The issue doesn't lie between Jackson County, Alabama, and Manhattan, or between conservative and radical, white and black. The issue is impersonal justice. The entrance of enlightened and courageous local citizens on the side of the Negro defendants may be a chance to turn the tide.

If the Alabama Scottsboro Committee can be induced to make its organization permanent its usefulness will be multiplied. For other needs for its help doubtless will arise in Alabama as in any other State, and immediate, vigorous action by Southerners of the caliber of those on the present committee will be the surest guarantee of justice. Nothing else promises so much in preventing the infection of such cases by the poison of sectional passion.

Birmingham, Ala. News
June 11, 1936

The Alabama Movement In The Scottsboro Case

For a long time there have been many Alabamians who have felt that the most needful thing in the interest of justice in the Scottsboro case is for the defense to be represented by Alabama lawyers, to the end that the alien and extraneous aspects which have so complicated and plagued this notorious case might be eliminated. There is a feeling, which seems to be growing among the people of this state, irrespective of their individual opinions about the merits of the case, that so long as the defense remains in the hands of those now in charge of it, there can be no fair and impartial trial and no satisfactory disposition of the affair.

This feeling has now reached the point where a number of prominent and representative Alabamians have deemed it advisable to inaugurate an organized movement in that direction. Accordingly, the Alabama Scottsboro Committee has come into being, with its members including outstanding representatives of the clergy, education, the professions, labor and the press of the state. The committee is headed by Dr. Henry M. Edmonds, pastor of the Independent Presbyterian Church of Birmingham and a distinguished worker in the field of race relations.

As head of the committee, Dr. Edmonds has written Files Crenshaw, Sr., of Montgomery, president of the Alabama Bar Association, requesting him informally to have the state bar suggest two attorneys to represent the defendants, and voicing confidence "the request for designation of Alabama counsel to assist in the defense will come from the defendants themselves, after the withdrawal of Mr. Leibowitz from the case." Samuel Leibowitz, of New York, who has served as defense counsel almost ever since the beginning of the five-year-old case, has said that he has no intention of withdrawing.

The Alabama Scottsboro Committee emphasizes that it is "definitely an association of Alabama citizens without organic connection with any other group or organization, North or South," and that its interest in the Scottsboro case "is wholly indigenous," being concerned chiefly with getting rid of "extraneous agencies and influences" in the affair and with having the defendants tried "simply on the merits of their case as presented by lawyers from our own state."

The purposes of the committee are thus on a high and an altogether commendable plane. Dr. Edmonds, in his letter to Mr. Crenshaw, says it "now looks as if the way were open" to the accomplishment of the purpose of eliminating the complicating extraneous influences in the case. For the sake of Alabama, which has suffered much because of this case, as well as in the interest of justice to the defendants, it is earnestly to be hoped that the way really is open to bring the committee's aims to fruition.

RICHMOND, VA.
TIMES DISPATCH

JUN 11 1936

Mr. Leibowitz Declines

LAST January we published an editorial in these columns deploring the unwillingness of SAMUEL S. LEIBOWITZ to withdraw as counsel for the Scottsboro defendants in favor of Alabama attorneys. We understood that such attorneys had made an effort to supersede MR. LEIBOWITZ.

We were promptly informed by the REV. ALLAN KNIGHT CHALMERS of the Broadway Tabernacle, New York, chairman of the Scottsboro Defense Committee, that "no proposal was made by any group or individual in the South to transfer the defense to Alabama attorneys," and that "no group or lawyer in Alabama ever offered to take over the defense." DR. CHALMERS added that he and his committee would be "most happy to entertain" such a proposal if and when it was made.

A proposal of this sort has now been made, according to dispatches from Montgomery, and it has been flatly refused by MR. LEIBOWITZ with the assertion that "the American Scottsboro Committee, with headquarters in New York, is the one in charge of the case; the Alabama committee has nothing to do with it."

Aside from the fact that DR. CHALMERS specifically stated in his communication to THE TIMES-DISPATCH, published February 8, that the American Scottsboro Committee had been dissolved, there is the further fact that MR. LEIBOWITZ seems inclined to give the Alabama group no co-operation whatever. DR. CHALMERS may have made an effort to obtain his co-operation, but if so he had no luck.

So we are now, it would seem, against the same old stone wall in the Scottsboro case, with a man who is despised by the great majority of Alabamians, because of his criticism of Alabama jurors, endeavoring to persuade those same jurors to set his clients free.

True, LEIBOWITZ managed to get HEYWOOD PATTERSON off in January with a 75-year sentence, whereas it was thought almost universally that the death penalty was assured. On the other hand, the affray which took place next day when the prisoners were being transferred from Decatur, in which a deputy sheriff was slashed, served to arouse feeling still further against the Negroes:

Frankly, we see little or no hope of ever getting justice for the defendants, as long as they are defended by SAMUEL LEIBOWITZ. He is entitled to thanks for his disinterested service in a long and grueling series of trials, but the time has come when he should step down and let Alabama attorneys, chosen by the State Bar Association, take charge. It is our conviction that HEYWOOD PATTERSON would have been acquitted at his most recent trial, if both defense attorneys had been natives of the State. The feeling in Alabama against "outsiders," and particularly against LEIBOWITZ, is a hard reality in the Scottsboro case which nobody can afford to ignore. As long as it is ignored, the defendants have little or no chance of an impartial hearing.

NORFOLK, VA.
VIRGINIAN PILOT

JUN 14 1936

IT COMES TO COMMONSENSE

From the Charlotte News.

Five years ago Alabama took in charge nine Negro hoboes charged with criminally attacking two white girls who, themselves, were hoboing through the country on a freight train. Almost immediately the original question of the guilt or innocence of the accused men was swept aside, since which time the case has coursed along on the crests of waves of prejudice and propaganda. Now comes the organization of the Alabama Scottsboro committee, consisting of leading Alabamians interested solely in seeking the truth of the case and ending it in accordance with the truth.

The committee includes a former Governor, a publisher, university dean, hospital superintendent, university president, a rabbi, labor leader and attorneys of real ability. Their purpose is to have the State Bar Association select two lawyers to defend the Negroes, make sure that they have a fair and impartial trial, and abide by the results.

To do that they must override waves of Alabama racial prejudice, must counteract the poison of Northern defense rackets, must disengage the case from Leibowitz and from the coils of Alabama politics and reduce the whole affair from the status of a cause celebre to a simple trial in court where justice to all parties is the only goal. From this distance it seems to be an instance where everything else has been tried and now commonsense is introduced as a last resort. We applaud vigorously.

Birmingham, Ala. News
June 11, 1936

SCOTTSBORO PLAN TOLD EARLY, VIEW

Edmonds Regrets Premature Story But Still Hopes For State Lawyers

Plans of the Alabama Scottsboro Committee to obtain Alabama attorneys for the defense in the famous case were discussed publicly prematurely, according to a statement by Dr. Henry M. Edmonds, chairman of the committee.

His statement expressed regret at the "premature release," but he said there was hope the plan could still be worked out and that the committee is ready to proceed and complete negotiations, if possible.

The statement follows:

"It was unfortunate that the statement of June 10 from Montgomery regarding the effort to secure Alabama counsel for the Scottsboro cases should have been given to the press, inasmuch as it was premature and may prejudice the success of the efforts of the Alabama Scottsboro Committee.

"No action has really been taken except partial formation of the committee and a tentative approach to the Alabama Bar Association to ascertain if they could suggest counsel or at least name a panel from its own choice of lawyers to cooperate in the defense.

Requests Made

"We were proceeding upon repeated requests, both personal and by correspondence, from the Scottsboro Defense Committee of New York to form a state group of representative men and women, who would assume in the name of the citizens of Alabama the responsibility for naming local defense counsel to cooperate with Mr. Clarence Watts, of Huntsville, already associated with the defense. Such counsel was to be acceptable to the New York committee as well as to ourselves.

"The delicacy of the situation has been from the first apparent to us all, both here and in New York. Nevertheless, we were just about to reach a mutually satisfactory understanding upon which a public statement could have been made, when the communication with the Bar Association was given to the press without the knowledge or consent of either the Alabama Scottsboro Committee or of the president of the Bar Association.

"We hope, even now, that this untimely release will not prejudice the situation. We are still ready to go ahead and complete the negotiations if possible, because we are still of the opinion that prejudice can be allayed and justice secured more surely and more speedily if the defense is in the hands of the best available Alabama attorneys.

"HENRY M. EDMONDS,
"Chairman, Alabama Scottsboro Committee."

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
NEWS

JUN 11 1936

It Comes to Commonsense.

Five years ago Alabama took in charge nine Negro hoboes charged with criminally attacking two white girls who, themselves, were hoboing through the country on a freight train. Almost immediately the original question of the guilt or innocence of the accused men was swept aside, since which time the case has coursed along on the crests of waves of prejudice and propaganda. Now comes the organization of the Alabama Scottsboro committee, consisting of leading Alabamians interested solely in seeking the truth of the case and ending it in accordance with the truth.

The committee includes a former governor, a publisher, university dean, hospital superintendent, university president, a rabbi, labor leader and attorneys of real ability. Their purpose is to have the State bar association select two lawyers to defend the Negroes, make sure that they have a fair and impartial trial, and abide by the results.

To do that they must over-ride waves of Alabama racial prejudice, must counter-act the poison of Northern defense rackets, must disengage the case from Leibowitz and from the coils of Alabama politics and reduce the whole affair from the status of a *cause celebre* to a simple trial in court where justice to all parties is the only goal. From this distance it seems to be an instance where everything else has been tried and now commonsense is introduced as a last resort. We applaud vigorously.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
June 18, 1936

Alabama's Congressman A. H. Carmichael has decided to give his name and talent to defense of the Scottsboro Negroes, and all who are interested in a trial isolated upon the one issue of guilt or innocence must applaud the gift as a great one. It is a step towards the new start which the good name of Alabama and the great cause of justice require. Now if Messrs. Tom Knight and Samuel Leibowitz will do the sensible, large-minded thing and withdraw in the interests of this same isolation, it will be possible to hope for an honorable end to the whole hideous affair.

* * *

When R. S. Marshall, of the Park and Recreation Board, addresses the Birmingham Real Estate Board this Thursday, we hope somebody will remember to pin a medal on him and his board. If any Southern city has a more intelligently active and successful board we have not been told the news.

* * *

We have heard of bearding lions in their dens, but it re-

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
POST

JUN 11 1936

PLANS SHAPING IN ATTACK CASE

Edmonds Says Proposal For Leibowitz To Retire Prematurely Based

Hope for early consummation of plans to have Alabama attorneys direct the defense of the nine Negroes accused in the Scottsboro case was expressed today by Dr. Henry M. Edmonds, pastor of Independent Presbyterian Church and chairman of the newly - formed Alabama Scottsboro committee.

Dr. Edmonds issued a statement expressing regret that news of the committee's plans to ask Samuel Liebowitz, New York attorney, to withdraw as chief defense counsel in the case had been released to newspapers "prematurely," but added "we hope, even now, that this untimely release will not prejudice the situation."

Lieut.-Gov. Thomas E. Knight Jr., special prosecutor in the case, revealed in Montgomery yesterday that Dr. Edmonds' committee in an effort to make rational disposition of the five-year-old attack case had approached heads of the Alabama Bar Assn. with the suggestion that the state bar name two "competent Alabama attorneys" to defend the Negroes.

Dr. Edmonds' statement follows:

"It was unfortunate that the statement of June 10 from Montgomery regarding the effort to secure Alabama counsel for the Scottsboro cases should have been given to the press, inasmuch as it was premature and may prejudice the efforts of the Alabama Scottsboro committee.

Appeals From New York

"No action has really been taken except partial formation of the committee and a tentative approach to the Alabama Bar Assn. to ascertain if they could suggest counsel or at least name a panel from which the committee might make its own choice of lawyers to co-operate in the defense.

"We were proceeding upon repeated requests, both personal and by correspondence, from the Scottsboro defense committee of New York to form a state group of representative men and women, who would assume in the name of the citizens of Alabama the responsibility of naming local defense counsel to co-operate with Clarence Watts, of Huntsville, already associated with the defense. Such counsel was to be acceptable to the New York committee as well as to ourselves.

Seek Speedy Justice

"The delicacy of the situation has been from the first apparent to us all, both here and in New York. Nevertheless, we were just about to reach a mutually satisfactory understanding upon which a public statement could have been made, when the communication with the Bar Association was given to the press without the knowledge or consent of either the Alabama Scottsboro committee or the president of the Bar Association.

"We hope, even now, that this untimely release will not prejudice the situation. We are still ready to go ahead and complete the negotiations if possible, because we are still of the opinion that prejudice can be allayed and justice secured more surely and more speedily if the defense is in the hands of the best available Alabama attorneys."

Anniston, Ala. Star
June 17, 1936

The Scottsboro Case

Organization of the Alabama Scottsboro Defense Council, a group of prominent Alabamians determined to bring an end to the five-year-old stigma cast over this commonwealth by the bizarre handling of the charges against nine Negroes, apparently has borne fruit already.

Apparently authentic sources have revealed that Congressman A. H. Carmichael has been retained as defense counsel and the summer trials delayed until November 2 to permit the famous Tennessee Valley attorney to prepare his case.

Now, if Lt. Gov. Thomas E. Knight would completely disassociate himself from the case, it is believed the state and the nation will be assured of justice being performed.

The case is a long one, filled with spectacular events. The original charge, in which nine Negroes were accused of assaulting two white girls on a freight train near Scottsboro, was no more startling than subsequent events.

One of the nine Negroes, Heywood Patterson, was given a 75-year imprisonment sentence at a trial in January, and two of the Negroes were not arraigned, pleading they were juveniles at the time of the alleged assault. Patterson's sentence was appealed.

At the end of the Patterson trial the other cases were continued due to the illness of a key witness. It was at the end of this trial that one of the most startling developments in the long history of the case occurred.

One of the defendants, Ocie Powell, was shot and seriously wounded by Sheriff J. Street Sandlin when he and two others attempted to escape while Sandlin was bringing them to jail here from Decatur. A deputy sheriff, Edgar Blalock, was cut in the attempt, but was not seriously wounded. Powell recovered after several weeks in a hospital here.

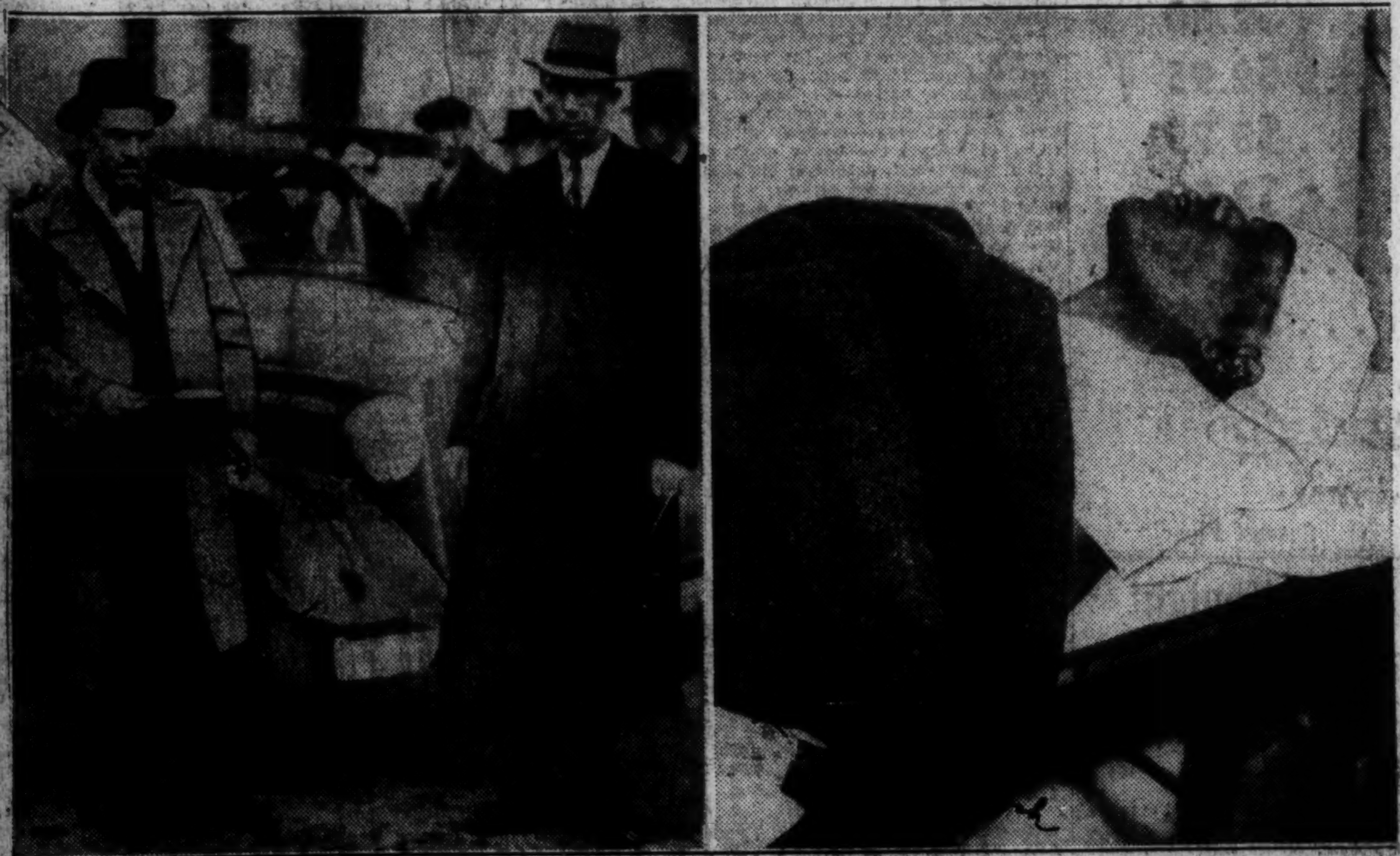
The addition of Congressman Carmichael to the defense staff presupposes that New York's Samuel Leibowitz will not muddy the waters again. Mr. Knight, now an avowed candidate for Governor, could do the state no greater service than to turn his files over to competent prosecutors. Both the names of Mr. Leibowitz and Mr. Knight are associated with the less pleasant aspects of the case in the minds of people and if a complete new approach can be made possibly the case can be settled once and for all to the satisfaction of every person interested in seeing justice done.

Alabama

5370

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Negro Representative Expresses Hope for Probe In Wounding of Scottsboro Defendant by Deputy



En route to jail in Birmingham after court hearings at Decatur, Ala., Ozie Powell, one of the nine Negro defendants in the famous Scottsboro case, was shot and seriously wounded by Sheriff J. Street Sandlin following a knife attack on Deputy Sheriff Edgar Blalock near the town of Cullman. Sheriff Sandlin is shown (left) with the knife Powell was alleged to have used in cutting Blalock's neck. The sheriff and Deputy J. E. Pierce are standing before the automobile in which the attack took place. On the right, Powell is seen in a Birmingham hospital after doctors removed a bullet from his head. (Associated Press Photos.)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 26 (AP)—A growing stack of "demands" were received today by Alabama authorities from individuals and organizations protesting the wounding of a Negro defendant in the Scottsboro case during an encounter with a deputy sheriff.

Among them was a telegram signed by Representative Arthur Mitchell, of Illinois, only Negro member of congress, expressing hope for a "thorough" investigation of the affair in which Ozie Powell was shot in the head and Deputy Edgar Blalock knifed in the neck.

Telegrams addressed to Governor Bibb Graves at Montgomery demanded impeachment of Judge W. W. Callahan, presiding at the latest proceedings in the case at Decatur, Ala., and Sheriff J. Street Sandlin who fired a bullet into Powell's brain after the Negro slashed Blalock.

Like 25,000 received at the executive office since the Negroes were arrested in 1931 and accused of mass attacks on Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates, white women, the communications were filed without comment.

The protests for the most part came from the north, east and west and included telegrams signed by chapters of the International Labor Defense, the Vanguard Scientific Society of New York City and the Communist Party, Tacoma, Washington."

Powell is in a serious condition at the county hospital here and Blalock is at his home with a six-inch gash across his throat. They were Negroes, Samuel S. Leibowitz, of New York, chief of defense counsel called on Sandlin to 'give all the facts."

Contention Questioned

In a statement, Leibowitz asked:

"Does the sheriff of Morgan county (of which Decatur is the seat) claim that these three Negroes shackled together in the rear seat of a rapidly moving automobile with only two doors leading to the front compartment, with two men in that automobile armed to the teeth, this car preceded in front by an automobile carrying two other armed officers of the law and followed by still another car with armed guards and with state highway patrolmen as an escort, did attempt to escape by using a pen knife?

"If that is the contention of the Morgan county sheriff, we dare say that the public will demand further enlightenment. If it was not an attempt to escape, perhaps the sheriff will be kind enough to give the public all the facts that provoked this unfortunate occurrence."

Negro Blames 'Threat'

Powell said he slashed Blalock because he had overheard a conversation in which he said the officer and another man remarked they were "going to kill all of us."

Roy Wright and Clarence Norris, handcuffed to Powell during the transfer, said the trouble started after Blalock slapped Powell because the latter "sassed" him.

The Negroes' statements were contradicted by Sandlin who said there was no conversation for 10 miles before Powell pulled the knife. The sheriff also said Wright took part in the attack, which the prisoner denied.

Sandlin said he went to the rescue of his deputy and shot Powell as the automobile caravan of officers and prisoners neared Cullman, Ala., on the 90-mile trip from Decatur.

The Negroes have been held in the Jefferson county jail here most of the time between their appearances in court. They were being returned here Friday following postponement of proceedings because of the illness of a witness.

To Make Report

Catpain E. Potter Smith of the state highway patrol completed an official investigation and said his report would be handed the governor tomorrow, he declined to comment on his findings.

Another investigation was being made by Sandlin at Decatur. He had in custody a Negro delivery boy who was questioned as to the possible source of the knife used by Powell.

Leibowitz and his associate, Clarence Watts, of Huntsville, Ala., issued a prepared statement in which they said Powell was "in no condition to make a coherent statement."

The News, however, quoted Powell as telling the attorney "we made it up at the Decatur jail. We was going to have to be in jail anyway. Leroy (Roy Wright) and the rest of them said if I didn't use the knife they would cut my throat when we got back to the Birmingham jail."

The attorneys said Powell was in severe pain, that his eyes were glassy and that they left his room after two or three minutes. The hospital said his condition was unchanged.

NEW YORK TIMES

JAN 25 1936

THE SCOTTSBORO CASE.

Once more a white Alabama jury has brought in a verdict of guilty in the case of the Negro youth HAYWOOD PATTERSON, charged with attacking a white woman. But this time something—a lingering doubt regarding the evidence, a twinge of conscience, fear of an irrevocable act—impelled the jury to fix a sentence, not of death, but of imprisonment for seventy-five years. As three previous juries had voted for a death sentence, this is a sign that the temper of Alabama juries has at least slightly changed. Whether because of the manner in which the defense was this time conducted, or because the years of outside criticism and the attitude of the Supreme Court have at last begun to take effect, the Scottsboro boys can now regard their case as not altogether hopeless.

No one who has read the reports is likely to believe that the trial of PATTERSON was fairly and impartially conducted. True, this time there was a technical compliance with the order of the Supreme Court that Negroes must be made eligible for jury duty. Out of a panel of 100, five were Negroes (the proportion of colored to white population in Alabama is about one to two), but these were all eliminated by the State, and the final jury was composed, as hitherto, entirely of white men. The reports of the newspaper correspondents seem to lend ample support to the contention of the defense attorneys that Judge CALLAHAN, in his conduct of the trial, was "irritable" and "impatient" toward the defense, and that his comments tended to "minimize the importance of evidence offered for the defendant." The words of MELVIN C. HUTSON, the local prosecutor, summing up, are almost incredible: "Don't go out and quibble over the evidence. Say to yourselves, 'We're tired of this job,' and get it behind you. Get it done quick and protect the fair womanhood of this great State." But once more the attorneys for the defense will appeal to the higher courts, and there is still hope for a trial in a more judicial atmosphere.

New York Evening Post

JAN 2 3 1936

ALABAMA JURY WEIGHING FATE OF PATTERSON

2d Scottsboro Boy Goes on Trial—State Asks Death

4 MISTRIAL PLEAS DENIED BY JUDGE

By CARLETON BEALS

Special Correspondent N. Y. Post

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 23.—A jury of ewelve white Alabama farmers today weighed the fate of Haywood Paterson, one of the Scottsboro boys accused of attacking two white women aboard a freight train five years ago, after the State had demended the death penalty for the fourth time.

Thrice before Patterson has been convicted of the same charge and sentenced to die.

The jury received the case late last night and had three alternatives before them. They can acquit Patterson; return a verdict of ten years to life imprisonment or, for the fourth time, bring in a verdict of death.

Plea for "Womanhood"

In a tearful plea, Prosecuting Attorney Melvin Hutson urged the jury to bring in a quick verdict to "save the womanhood of America." Otherwise, he said, "we might have to buckle six-shooters about our waists."

Patterson is charged with leading the other Negroes in a mass attack on Mrs. Victoria Price, "girl hobo," on a freight train in Jackson County in 1931. On the witness stand he denied the attack.

Looking across the courtroom at the woman who accused him, he said:

"I never seen no woman on the train and I didn't touch Victoria Price."

Clarence Watts urged acquittal when he summed up for the defense by saying:

"I am your friend and neighbor. I have never stod before a jury and defended a man I believed guilty of an attack. I was convinced of the innocence of this man before I ever consented to come into the case."

Second Trial Starts Today

Judge W. W. Callahan delivered his charge last night and ordered the jury to begin its deliberations this morning.

The trial of the second of the nine accused Negroes, Clarence Norris, also will begin today.

Patterson was the first of the Scotsboro defendants to be brought to trial since the U. S. Supreme Court set aside previous death sentences on grounds that Negroes were excluded systematically from the jury rolls.

During the trial the defense moved for a miserial of the case four times but was overruled by Judge Callahan. Each time it noted exceptions, apparently laying the basis for a new appeal in the event of Patterson's conviction for a fourth time.

New York Evening Post

JAN 2 4 1936

Wake of the News

First Impressions of a Trial You May Know About

FROM the outside the Decatur, Ala., courthouse looked like a junior high school with entrances at either end and a pillared front portico.

At the door of the court room upstairs a man was frisking entrans. He said with a chuckle, "Didn't expect to get nothin'." Behind me he felt an old farmer who said, "Ain't got nary a one at home."

The half-filled room, later in the day filled with 300 souls, had for sole decoration two calendars: The Union Central Life Insurance showing December, 1935, and the 1936 January as demonstrated by the Dix Insurance Company of Decatur.

The people, said those who had been there last year, looked much neater and more prosperous, gentler, less hostile. Upon a past, unhappy occasion Mr. F. Raymond Daniell, the New York Times man, described these people as tobacco-chewing (and spitting) types. For this he was taken severely to task by local correspondents who wrote the whole way to New York to make irate corrections. As if fate had planned it, the most active tobacco-juice spitter present functioned directly in front of Mr. Daniell last Monday as the hundred prospective jurors were being questioned. It seems a maligned habit, being productive, pleasantly odorous, and soothing to the victim.

Speaking of that which is maligned, it is easy to approach the people who fill a Decatur court room in the wrong spirit. O New Yorkers of Little Understanding! There were odd types: particularly a man with an unbrushed shock of white hair, a queer-looking fellow. But for the greater part they seemed plain, American, Southern, poor farmers. Clean, too.

The Leads

Judge W. W. Callahan, who has been nicknamed "Speed" by those who enjoy thinking of him in certain terms, including "hasty," came to the rear of the court room while still waiting for the "Boys" to arrive from their jail in Birmingham. He made a lively joke with a stout doctor standing there, and they laughed so merrily you couldn't help smiling.

As later during the day, Judge Callahan showed himself possessed of a determination to be light when the fancy struck him, to laugh when it was the time to laugh and to display an elaborate concern for the interests of the defense when that was indicated. In fact, looked at briefly and from the distance, you would say there is more than ordinary charm in the old gentleman. Perhaps nothing gentle, of course, but there is the bluff charm of one who barges his way through the niceties and speaks out like an honest man.

Here again the voice of those who may wish not to believe whispers that this time, far beneath the gentle mask, lies the molten determination to get these trials over and done with.

• • •

Seven noncommittal black men came into the court handcuffed in twos.

These were the men who once were the Scottsboro Boys. Qualified observers immediately remarked on how well they looked.

There was one whose hair, parted in the middle and slicked, came down upon a low forehead from which jutted a strong nose. Haywood Patterson, the most often tried. He looked as if he could be a mean man, which, by the law of deceptive appearances, should make him meek. There was another who looked like a certain Harlem Y. M. C. A. worker. There was another who was sleepy, a fourth and a fifth sat there expressionless, the sixth allowed his lower lip to hang open, which never makes any one seem bright, and the seventh was alert.

All were sent back to the jail except Patterson, who subsided quietly during the long afternoon, chewing his gum strongly and not laughing when the lawyers and the judge practically split with legal tee-hees.

• • •

No one laughed more often or more effectively than Mr. Thomas E. Knight, the slightly halt little man who seems to have constituted himself the Avenging Angel of this case, though to tell the truth he looks more like Mr. Ernest Truex in the role of a little man. Mr. Knight in real life is the Lieutenant Governor of Alabama and doubtless an astute politician. He has small hands, a small head with largish ears and a ruddy face. If you had not known he was the most important man in the room you would not have picked him.

The Question

The prosecution asked the prospective jurors almost nothing. The defense spent hours. One question the defense asked was this: "Would the mere say-so of a white woman that she'd been raped by a Negro cause you to close your mind to an analysis of all the evidence for the purpose of determining what she said was true or not?"

That word "analysis" seemed to cause trouble. Or maybe it was the length and involution of the sentence. At any rate, Judge Callahan finally asked Watts to change "analysis" to "consideration." Judge Callahan said in a complaining humor, "I don't know what it means myself. I don't think you do, either."

Every one laughed, and after that the word was "consideration."

The answer to that question, by the way, was always "No."

Similarly, there was never the slightest hesitation on the part of the fifty persons examined in assuring the court under oath that they had no prejudice against Negroes and that they had never discussed the case among their friends nor formed any opinions. Some had relatives who had been upon previous Scottsboro trial juries, one had such a father, but the matter had never been discussed.

THE SCOTTSBORO FARCE

Recorder

2-1-36

Thomas E. Knight, Jr., made himself Lieutenant Governor of Alabama by viciously prosecuting the Scottsboro boys. He is now getting himself elected Governor by attempting to send innocent boys to their death. He knows that they are not guilty of any crime which warrants the death penalty.

Knight knows the psychology of the hillbillies in Morgan County. He will inflame their pasisons to get votes. It is difficult to understand the type of mind which can stoop so low as to deliberately kill in order to placate a stupid electorate.

Judge Callahan is not any better than Knight. The calling of colored jurors is a farce. They were not even permitted to sit in the jury box. The Scottsboro trial is a mockery. It reflects upon the dignity of courts of law. In all probability, the Scottsboro boys will die to satisfy prejudice and to help make Thomas Knight Governor of Alabama.—Philadelphia Tribune.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

5371

BITTERNESS IS ADDED TO SCOTTSBORO CASE

Trials Are Delayed After Conviction Of One of the Accused Under the Law as It Is Laid Down

By F. RAYMOND DANIELL.

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 25.—The rash act of Ozie Powell in stabbing a deputy sheriff who was taking him to jail has heaped new coals upon the fires of bitterness surrounding the famous Scottsboro case. It makes death sentences for all the Negroes accused with him of attacking two white women almost certain and it raises a question of the wisdom of appealing from the verdict of the jury which condemned Haywood Patterson to a life in prison.

Times

It is probable, however, that the Negroes whose trials were indefinitely postponed after Patterson's fourth conviction could be brought back here tomorrow without danger of a lynching.

1-26-36

There were few indications at the court proceedings this week of the hysteria which marked the earlier trials. That is undoubtedly because the citizens of Morgan County feel reasonably sure that, with Judge W. W. Callahan presiding, there will be no miscarriage of justice as they see it.

New York, N.Y.

Judge Callahan promised at the outset to "debunk" the trials of the Negroes. He made his promise after Judge James E. Horton had incurred the bitter enmity of local folk by reversing the verdict of a jury which decreed Patterson's execution in the electric chair after a trial before him.

Judge Horton's Attitude.

Judge Horton heard all the evidence that was offered by both sides. He took the position that in a case which had assumed the importance of the Scottsboro case, hemmed in as it was—and is—by the extraneous issues of sectionalism, [illegible] prejudice and politics, anything that would help to bring out the truth was admissible in evidence. By doing so, he allowed what the law decribes as a "reasonable doubt" to creep in upon the consciousness of the court room hangers-on.

So long as that doubt remained there was need for National Guardsmen to protect Haywood Patterson—the man on trial—and his six colored co-defendants, from the mob violence which threatened them. When doubt of the outcome was lessened the danger of violence was lessened in the same ratio.

Thus at Patterson's first trial before Judge Callahan, in whom the townsfolk have the utmost confidence, it was deemed safe to dispense with the services of the militia, and the safety of the defendants was entrusted to special deputies from Birmingham. At that trial Patterson and Clarence Norris, a fellow-defendant, were convicted and sentenced to death at trials which the defense charged were prejudiced by the judge himself.

Citizens Support Bench.

The faith of the citizens of Morgan County in the orderly processes of the law was justified, just when they were beginning to speak openly, and with nostalgia, of the old-fashioned "hempen way." Even when the United States Supreme Court ordered new trials for the two condemned Negroes on the ground that they had been illegally indicted by grand juries from which members of their race had been excluded, the good folk of Morgan County shrugged their shoulders and placed their faith in Judge Callahan and the law.

If they must put Negroes upon their jury rolls, the State could "strike" them before they ever got into the jury box, couldn't it? So they reasoned. Alabama could still render lip service to the Fourteenth Amendment and flout it as she had since the evil days after the War between the States, they reasoned. That, and more, is exactly what happened; and because it did happen the poor whites of this region, where the economic gulf is narrow between the upper class of one race and the lower class of another, are willing to "let the law take its course."

The appearance of Negroes on the panel from which juries were chosen to try Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris caused little stir among the overalled audiences which gathered to see the "big shot" lawyer from New York lock horns with the champion of the womanhood of Alabama, Lieutenant Governor Thomas E. Knight Jr. No one in the court room had any doubt but that the former Attorney General, who entered the case more to protect the Jim Crow jury system than to prosecute the Negroes, would see to it that all the colored men were eliminated.

He did.

Special Deputies Not Needed.

Judge Callahan's "debunking" of the Scottsboro case was so successful two years ago that this time, in spite of the Supreme Court ruling necessitating the inclusion of Negroes on the jury rolls if not on the juries, it was not necessary even to swear in deputies from Birmingham to protect the defendants. Only a handful of State highway policemen were on hand to guard them, and all there was to protect them from lynching, really, was the certainty of the townsfolk that after the formality of a trial the Negroes would be dealth with "as the law provides."

In Patterson's trial, which resulted in a conviction and the recommendation of a penitentiary sentence of seventy-five years, Judge Callahan proved himself a strict constructionist as opposed to Judge Horton concerning the rules of evidence. Where Judge Horton had stretched a point to get to the bottom of a story which is at least dubious, Judge Callahan thumbed the law books and found reasons for excluding a great deal of testimony, which it seemed to a layman who has observed all but the first trials at Scottsboro, might have shed some light upon what really happened.

Evidence Ruled Out.

Judge Callahan held repeatedly that the defense had no right to show that Victoria Price might have given the physical appearance of having been attacked entirely as the result of her own willing indiscretions with white men on the night before she accused the Negroes of attacking her, after a posse had stopped the freight train on which she and her momentary lover were hoboing.

The State's own witness, Dr. R. R. Bridges, gave testimony at the trial before Judge Horton tending to bear out the theory of the defense about how the complaining witnesses got into the condition in which he found them. After that the State never presented its medical testimony, holding that a party to a lawsuit cannot attack its own witness.

Since the State will not call Dr. Bridges after his testimony on cross-examination at the trial before Judge Horton, the defense cannot do so without developing certain medical evidence and then finding itself stymied in the very thing it seeks to prove—that the circumstance can be explained without admitting an attack by the Negroes.

Judge Callahan has refused to permit defense counsel to interrogate Mrs. Price, the lone complaining witness, on what she did in Chattanooga or with whom she went there. In all this he has had the apparent approval of the courtroom crowd, even when the defense in desperation moved for a mistrial and accused him to his face of bias and prejudice.

Word Against Word.

With the evidence limited, by Judge Callahan's interpretation of the Alabama statutes, virtually to the question of a white woman's word against the word of an accused Negro, the court room crowd and the people of Morgan County have been satisfied.

Patterson's life has been saved. He has been condemned to a penitentiary sentence longer than ever the most optimistic actuary would reckon his life probabilities. For Mr. Leibowitz, who boasts that few of his clients ever have gone to the electric chair, it is a victory, but for Patterson it is what? A Negro in jeopardy of his life is a potential martyr, but a Negro in jail for the rest of his life for a sordid crime is a forgotten man.

FOR THE DEFENSE

Associated Press.

Sam[illegible] Leibowitz, acting for the a[illegible] in the Scottsboro case.

SCOTTSBORO DEFENDANTS GO TO A FOURTH TRIAL

State policeman acting as guards for the accused Negroes.

Associated Press.

Associated Press.

Judge Callahan, who presided in the Decatur court room.

k, S. C. Enquirer
uary 28, 1936

Ozie Powell, one of the negro defendants in the Scottsboro, Ala., cases made a vicious knife attack on an officer at Decatur, where the trials of the negroes are in progress. The negro was critically shot by the sheriff after a deputy had been seriously hurt. Another prisoner, Roy Wright, joined in the knife attack, but was uninjured by the shots of the officers.

Sylacauga, Ala., Advance
January 30, 1936

Let's hope that threats and protests made by defenders of the negroes being tried in the famous Scottsboro case will not, and have not had any weight with judges or jurors.

Qualifying Of Scottsboro Jurors To Be Resumed At Decatur Hearing Today

Montgomery Advertiser 1-21-36
Montgomery, Ala

DECATUR, ALA., Jan. 20.—(AP)—For the fourth time in less than five years, Heywood Patterson, negro, one of nine defendants in the "Scottsboro case" was called before the bar of an Alabama court today for trial on a charge of attacking a white woman.

The fourth trial for the defendant, who three times has heard the words of a death sentence pronounced upon him, began in mid-afternoon, after Judge W. W. Callahan, presiding in Morgan Circuit Court, had denied a motion for a change of venue.

Of the 12 negroes drawn in the panel of 100, seven were excused during the qualifying of 48 jurors. Three claimed opposition to capital punishment; one was a physician, another a school teacher and two were above the age limit.

Approximately a score of jurors had been excused for various reasons when Judge Callahan recessed court until 8:30 a.m. tomorrow when the qualifying of the jurors will be completed and a jury selected, from those remaining.

One of the negroes excused for opposition to capital punishment—Elias Hatton—first asked to be excused because his "boss was in the hospital with his leg off." That failed, but when the capital punishment question was put he promptly declared he opposed it. The State excused him "for cause."

C. L. Watts, of Huntsville, recently employed by the Scottsboro defense committee to defend the negroes, raised the question of legality of Lieut. Gov. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., serving for the State, but Judge Callahan said "the Court declines to force an answer to that question."

Watts had raised the constitutional question of the lieutenant governor serving as a special prosecutor, holding that it would violate the provision prohibiting an officer of the State from holding two positions of profit at the same time.

Knight told the Court he was "employed by Atty. Gen. A. A. Carmichael and I am being compensated for my services."

"Do you hold a special deputation as assistant attorney general?" Watts asked.

Knight, who prosecuted the trials here in 1933, replied he did not.

It was then Judge Callahan ruled, and the last preliminary to Patterson's fourth trial was cleared away.

Qualification of the jury then was begun, with Judge Callahan giving particular attention to the questions propounded, and explaining them at length, particularly the question on "fixed opinions."

After the regular venire had been qualified, Watts with Samuel S. Leibowitz, of New York, chief of defense counsel in previous trials here, sitting at his elbow, began an exhaustive questioning of each juror.

Decatur Sheriff Frees Boy Accused Of Giving Knife To Scottsboro Negro

Greenville
1-29-36
[illegible]

DECATUR, ALA., Jan. 28.—(AP)—The scene of the investigation into the sensational attack of Ozie Powell, one of the Scottsboro defendants on an officer, shifted to Decatur today as Sheriff J. Street Sandlin released a negro suspected of furnishing Powell with the weapon.

Sheriff Sandlin said he released the negro, Ernest Merriweather, because of insufficient evidence and added "all I have is the statement of the Scottsboro negroes. It is my belief that the negroes were coached to lay the blame on Merriweather. For that reason I turned the negro loose."

Powell, in a Birmingham hospital with a bullet wound in his head, was described by Dr. J. W. McQueen as on the road to recovery unless complications set in. Paralysis of one side, the physician said, had cleared up.

Dr. Wilton Littlejohn, brain surgeon on Friday night removed a bullet from Powell's brain, fired by Sheriff Sandlin during a struggle between the negro and Deputy Sheriff Edgar Blalock whose throat Powell slashed with a knife.

"I believe my investigation will lead to white persons," Sheriff Sandlin said after Merriweather was released. "From what I have uncovered thus far, the negro was not involved."

Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief of defense counsel, on arrival in New York yesterday announced he would seek another change of venue for the negroes. The attorney said the accusations of the Morgan County sheriff made it plain that a fair trial could not be obtained here.

Letters threatening the life of Deputy Blalock were turned over to postal authoritets in Birmingham today by Sheriff Fred McDuff of Jefferson County, one of the letters, signed as a "colored fellow" in Brooklyn threatened the deputy's life if the writer had the opportunity for violence.

Powell slashed Blalock's throat 23 miles south of here Friday as he, with the nine other defendants, was being moved to Birmingham.

The day before the negroes were taken to Birmingham, Heywood Patterson, one of the defendants, was convicted of attacking Mrs. Victoria Price, March 25, 1931, on a freight train in Jackson County, and sentenced to 75 years' imprisonment.

Trials of three other defendants were postponed by Judge W. W. Callahan the following day because of illness of a defense witness, and refusal of the State to admit a "showing" (deposition).

It was Patterson's fourth conviction. Clarence Norris has been sentenced to death twice and all other Scottsboro defendants except Roy Wright, have been under the death sentence once. All are charged in indictments with attacking Mrs. Price and Ruby Bates.

Scottsboro, Ala., Age
June 18, 1936

NEGRO GUILTY OF ATTACK

A Coosa County Circuit jury found Oscar Patterson, 24-year-old Negro guilty of criminally assaulting a 7-year old white girl near Goodwater May 2.

Patterson was taken to Montgomery under protection of twenty-five national guardsmen and eight highway patrolmen, who were at his trial in Rockford, Ala., as "a precautionary measure."

The jury deliberated only thirty minutes.

The Negro pleaded innocent, but did not take the witness stand. Judge W. W. Wallace sentenced him to die July 17th.

Patterson was saved from possible violence the night of his arrest. The injured child's mother pleaded with a mob at the Goodwater jail to "let the law take its course."

Officers worked a ruse to get the Negro through the mob, saying they were taking him to a physician for examination. Then they rushed him to Montgomery for safekeeping.

Lynchings - 1936
Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama

5372

Gate
Rossville - Ga.
JAN 31 1936

The "Scottsboro Case".

The people of Scottsboro have borne with admirable patience and restraint the abuses and misrepresentation thrust upon them through circumstances for which they were in now way responsible.

The actors in the affair which brought the case into the courts and has held it there for five years, with no end in sight, did not live in Scottsboro, and Scottsboro people had never seen nor heard of them. A bunch of irresponsibles loafing over the country on freight trains, while passing through Jackson county of which Scottsboro is the county seat, were charged with breaking the law while the train was in that county, and thereby placed legal jurisdiction there. The alleged offenders were tried one time in Scottsboro and then the case was removed to another county on a change of venue.

With no other connection with the case, Jackson county had to bear the expenses of all the trials and the upkeep of the defendants for five years. The cost of this case has nearly bankrupted Jackson county. In addition, Scottsboro has been heralded all over the nation as an ignorant, prejudiced and vicious community. Scottsboro and Jackson county have bitterly resented this financial burden and the moral stigma placed upon its people but were helpless.

George Fort Milton, editor of the Chattanooga News, who ought to know the facts, in a speech at Columbia University last week after recounting all the TVA has been doing to "civilize" this section, said: "But for all this, it is not an easy matter to alter the patterns of the Tennessee valley, which has its share of deeply ingrained prejudices, for this valley has both Dayton and Scottsboro."

It would be interesting to know just what Mr. Milton thinks constitutes prejudice. If it had not been for the prejudice of the intellectual centers against the south and its courts, there would have been no "Scottsboro" and "Dayton" cases for the nation to hold up to our discredit. It was the voluntary meddling of foreign socialists and publicity chasing lawyers that nationalized the alleged prejudices and ignorance of our people and the conduct of our courts.

Scottsboro has a socially clean, intelligent and progressive citizenship. The people of Jackson county are industrious, fair and law-abiding. If the meddling "intellectuals" and self-oppointed guardians of the negroes had stayed at home and attended to their own business the Scottsboro defendants would have been given a fair and impartial trial and acquitted or punished according to the evidence against them and the verdict of the jury, and that would have been an end to the whole digusting matter.

As for Dayton, its people believe their Bible "from kiver to kiver," and repudiate evolution. That is not ignorance or prejudice—it is faith, and hurts nobody. They stick to their religion, believe what their preachers tell and have and practice the usual vices common to the "intellectual" centers. They vote prohibition and make, sell, and drink a little whisky, but they have none of the established and protected joints of immorality and destruction that "intellectuals" patronize in the centers of wisdom and self-righteousness.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
January 25, 1936

Fourth Scottsboro Conviction

The fourth Alabama jury that sat on the case of Haywood Patterson, charged with rape in the notorious box car episode of March, 1931, arrived at the same verdict—"guilty, as charged"—to which it had been preceded by three other Alabama juries, but not at quite the same punishment. The three other juries fixed death as the penalty. The latest jury substitutes seventy-five years in the penitentiary.

Assuming that this verdict sets the maximum punishment to be expected in the trials of the codefendants, it does one important thing—it spares the State of Alabama and the whole nation the dangerous tension incident to an effort to consummate the mass execution of seven Negroes in punishment of a crime which, in the opinion of millions of Americans, was never committed. The law could not take seven lives on the strength of the evidence that has been submitted, without creating a social sore which would eat at the peace of Alabama and of the South for many years to come. That particular cancer seems about to be averted.

But a great sore remains. It is not to be believed that the seven Scottsboro defendants can be sentenced to prison for the remainder of their life expectancy—for that is what the seventy-five year sentence amounts to—on the kind of evidence that has been marshalled without preserving the tensions that this case has generated and without laying up trouble for the future.

Only those capable of ignoring the circumstances of the box car episode from which the Scottsboro case sprang and of closing their eyes to the contradictory testimony and to the corruption exuded by the racial passions that have swirled around this case for five years can believe that this is a punishment that fits the crime. By what means a better approximation of justice can be achieved is at this time anything but clear. But that a better approximation of justice will have to be arrived at if the Scottsboro cases are to be written off the South's calendar of poisonous social liabilities, seems to us beyond dispute.

GREEN BAY, WIS.
PRESS GAZETTE
JAN 29 1936

IMAGINE YOURSELF IN THEIR BOOTS.

In the Scottsboro case the young prosecutor delivered himself thus to the jury:

> "Don't go out and quibble over the evidence. Say to yourselves, 'We're tired of this job,' and put it behind you. Get it done quick, and protect the fair womanhood of this great state."

We wonder what the women of Alabama think about characterizing as typical of their "fair womanhood" the tobacco-chewing, female tramp who was involved in the case.

But aside from soaring phrases Alabama cannot be blamed for wanting to be rid of these cases. They have stirred up the state, as they have the Union somewhat, for about five years. In that time the supreme court of the United States has twice taken the rope from the sheriff's hands. The first time it interceded was because no one was appointed and made responsible for the protection of the rights of the accused at their trial. The record of that first "trial" would awaken Jeffrey's bones to a sympathetic rattle. The next conviction was reversed because in a country half black no negroes were called for jury service.

But an ugly way of handling ugly cases will never solve them. Justice entirely free from race prejudice enforced by firm and intelligent jurists is the only medicine that can heal such a wound.

The thing called civilization has long since decreed that a person shall neither go to prison nor the scaffold unless worthy evidence is produced of his wrong doing.

During these five years the negroes have been in jail. Their accuser is of course free while her pal and associate who accompanied her at the time the crime is claimed to have taken place still insists that no offense was committed and the charges are a frame-up.

No, Alabama cannot rid itself of these cases so airily. For Alabama brought them on. She doesn't even want to give the black man anything approaching fair or just treatment.

WILMINGTON, N. C.
STAR

FEB 1 1936

THE ALABAMA HORROR

SCOTTSBORO, the Alabama town that has become internationally famous through the repeated trials of negroes charged with a mass attack on two white girls, and later by the mysterious wounding of one of the negroes involved and a deputy sheriff, is again in the limelight, this time with its most gruesome contribution to world news.

It involves the burning to death of twenty negro prisoners, trapped in a moving cage while being transferred from one point to another by prison authorities.

North Carolina, which still remembers the Duplin horror, a somewhat similar occurence, but with a lower death toll, is in no position to point a finger of criticism at Alabama, but this newspaper considers that the same element, or elements of carelessness involved in its own state were noticeable in the Alabama catastrophe.

According to attendant guards, the prisoners had been permitted to build a fire in an empty can inside the cage, which contained also a drum of gasoline. Their theory is that the jostling of the vehicle over slippery roads spilled gasoline from the drum in vicinity of the fire with the resultant conflagration.

Assuming this story to be true, there is evidence, indeed proof of extreme carelessness. It requires no mature intellect to know that gasoline and fire do not mix, or that ice clogged roads are slippery and treacherous, hence the permitting of fire within reach of a gasoline drum is at best inexcusable. The strangeness of the incident would have been far more marked had the fire not started. Never addicted to the idea that a prison is a coddling camp for criminals, we have nevertheless avoided a callousness that deems the life of a prisoner hardly worth protecting after he becomes a ward of the state in a status of penal servitude. He is helpless, as the caged beast, and is therefore entitled to every reasonable protection, even though it come through the code safeguarding dumb animals.

The Duplin affair was no laurel wreath for North Carolina, nor will the Scottsboro incident add to the prestige of Alabama, either at home or abroad.

For her own reputation, if for naught else, the state should conduct a thorough investigation, fix the blame and administer punishment accordingly.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
January 8, 1936

Scottsboro—After Five Years

The malodorous Scottsboro case, after two convictions in the Alabama courts and two reversals by the United States Supreme Court, is again on the boards. The State of Alabama is girding itself for the third attempt, in five years, to prove the accused Negroes guilty of a capital crime. This time precautions have been taken to prevent a Supreme Court reversal. The defendants have able legal counsel. A Negro was given a place on the grand jury which returned the new indictment.

If the new trial results in a conviction, the door to reversal by the Supreme Court would seem to be closed. It is in anticipation of such an outcome, that the defense, headed by an Alabama lawyer this time, has asked the Morgan County Circuit Court to order the case transferred from the State to the Federal courts. The plea is that, in view of the fixed ideas resulting from past trials, a fair trial of the defendants is not to be had in Decatur where a conviction has already taken place, and that a second change of venue can not be had under the Alabama laws.

Not being learned in this matter, a plea for transfer from State to Federal jurisdiction based on these grounds has a novel sound to us. If it can be managed, it should serve the cause of justice. Only by holding the element of local and racial bias to its minimum influence—its total eradication is impossible—can a just verdict even be approximated. The people of Alabama, wrote John Temple Graves in the Birmingham *Age-Herald* a few weeks ago, passionately "desire to be rid of the case forever, to have Alabama freed of the passion, ill-fame and expense that go with it." They can do that most expeditiously by treating this case as one in which a mixed group of hoboes of both sexes were guilty of something far short of a capital crime, and fitting the punishment to the offense. If the new trial results as the others did—in an aggrandizement of the whatever offense was committed into a capital crime calling for the infliction of the death penalty—Alabama will not hear the last of this notorious case for another fifty years.

TORONTO, ONT.
MAIL & EMPIRE

FEB 4 1936

SCOTTSBORO TRIAL CONTINUES AS FARCE

By J. V. McAREE.

CARLETON BEALS calls it The Scottsboro Puppet Show, and declares that the nine young negroes now being tried for the rape of two white prostitutes are surrounded with the same ring of hatred and menace that earlier caused the United States Supreme Court to grant one of them a new trial after he had been convicted. The specific reason which impressed the court was that in the state of Alabama negroes are not permitted to sit as jurors, and that this was a violation of the constitutional rights of the defendants, namely that they should be tried by their peers. But Mr. Beals, who has been reporting the trial for The Nation, rather annoyingly refrains from telling us whether there are negroes on the jury that recently convicted Haywood Patterson, or whether there will be negroes on the other juries that are to try the other defendants. It is possible that negroes may have been on the jury panel but not called in this particular case. This might prove rather a neat way of meeting the objection of the Supreme Court.

Judge Is Hostile.

The judge is William Washington Callahan, who is more than 70 years old and has a son who recently was acquitted of murder through a plea of temporary insanity. He has a lashing tongue which has been employed almost without exception to defence counsel and witnesses. He is, as one writer said, a Hollywood version of a southern judge. Because of his impatience and irascibility the defence lawyers asked for a mistrial. Judge Callahan declared that if he had made any improper remarks he was willing to apologize and then denied the motion. Five other mistrial motions were denied. Under the former judge, who was a model of patience and fairness, the defence lawyers had troubles enough, and could not save their client from a conviction. They labored under the essential handicap of defending a negro in a nigger-hating community. They were also hindered by the fact that a group of Communists had come to the help of the negroes, and Communists are despised in parts of the south as much as negroes. Then the chief defence lawyer, Samuel S. Leibowitz is a Jew and a New Yorker, a detestable combination.

Loaded Dice.

At the outset the judge ruled out as evidence the defence model of the freight train upon which the assaults are alleged to have taken place. The defence insisted that without this model a proper reconstruction of the crime was impossible. The judge insisted it was merely a waste of time. Says Mr. Beals: "As the conductor started to testify the judge bellowed at him to ask him the number of box cars in the train, and before the conductor could make his calculations rushed to another question in such a way as to imply lack of credibility in the witness. Frequently throughout the trial when any witness seemed likely to make a statement that threw light on the facts the judge would roar over the bench at him, interrupting and confusing the evidence." But perhaps the worst damage the judge did to the defence was his decision that evidence had not been produced to show bad character and untruthfulness on the part of one of the female witnesses, the notorious Victoria Price, who claims to have been assaulted.

Is That How Darkeys Were Born?

There was a mass of such evidence, but the judge excluded it, and after having done so was well within the truth when he declared that the evidence had not been established. But the efforts of the judge were hardly needed in such an environment. Typical of the jurymen no doubt is one venireman who chatted with The Nation's correspondent and gave his theories of the origin of the negro race. Cain, it seemed, after killing Abel, had gone off to the Land of Nod, where he "knew a woman." The philosopher then proceeded: "Now most folks don't go on and think things out. The Bible never says sexual intercourse, it jus' says a man knows a woman. But the Bible tells that there couldn't be no human folk at that time in the Land of Nod. Now jus' put two and two together. Cain had offspring in the Land of Nod, so he had him a female baboon or chimpanzee or somethin' like that. An' that's how the nigger race started." This venireman, who may be one of the jury to try the next of the negroes, made his communication to Mr. Beals a short time after he had sworn that he had no racial prejudices.

Lawyers Put on Show.

The prosecution is headed by Thomas E. Knight Jr., whose father sits on the Supreme Court bench of the state and helps write the confirmation of the verdicts returned by the local farmer juries. The lawyer has handled the Scottsboro trials to his own political advantage and is now lieutenant governor. It has been pointed out that if Governor Bibb Graves should die or leave the state Knight would become governor and would have among other duties to pass on any pleas for clemency of the young men he had helped condemn. He is ably assisted by Melvin Hutson, noted as a Sunday school teacher. He began his address to the jury in a low voice and then suddenly sobbed out in a tone that shook the windows "Save the pure womanhood of Alabama." What followed was a cross between a stump speech and a sermon and referred very slightly to the evidence in the case. Unless Victoria Price, whom he described as a female of the human species, were avenged women "might have to buckle six shooters about their middles." He got his conviction and Patterson was sentenced to 75 years' imprisonment. The prisoners have now been five years in confinement. Those who were boys at the time of the arrests are now men. They seem doomed to be carrion unless the Supreme Court once more can come to their help or they will die as imbeciles in the the penitentiary.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

5373

THE "SCOTTSBORO CASE"

Afro 2-7-36

The Scottsboro trials have reeked with unfairness from their beginning. Alabama authorities who have been conducting these trials have succeeded in making themselves ridiculous in every civilized part of the globe...In addition to the ugly activities of those who have conducted the trials, we are called upon to witness an equally as ridiculous attitude in a small group of newspapers, which for some reason, feel that it is their duty to be continually delivering lectures to the lawyers who are conducting the defense of the Scottsboro boys. There is not one solitary thing that these papers have done to end this disgraceful persecution of the Scottsboro boys, even though they intimate, some of them, a belief in the innocence of the boys. This mildly expressed belief in the innocence of the boys, however, in no sense atones for this continued criticism of the conduct of the trials by defense counsel.

The favorite topic for these newspapers is an attack upon Attorney Samuel S. Leibowitz...Mr. Leibowitz, famous lawyer from New York, more than any one person in the world, is responsible for these outraged boys being alive. He has conducted a masterful defense of his clients, and that defense has been conducted in strict observance of the rules of Alabama courts. But by his insistence that the courts of Alabama shall obey the law of the land as it is obeyed in more enlightened sections of the country he has incurred the hatred of an element which believes that Negroes on trial for their lives may be subjected to discriminations based upon race and to do so is legal because old customs sanction it.

It is plain to every unbiased person that Mr. Leibowitz is defending the Scottsboro boys at a great sacrifice and in constant danger of his own life. He should be praised rather than condemned for what he has done.

We have not heard, and trust we shall not hear, any member of the Negro race join in the hue and cry against Attorney Leibowitz. Nevertheless, we would not be surprised to see some of the more impressionable among us succumb to the sophistry that it would be best for the Scottsboro boys to get rid of the "outside lawyers." The most notorious fact concerning this whole Scottsboro mess has been the failure of Alabama lawyers to come forward and give the boys such a strong defense as to make it wholly unnecessary for any "outside lawyers" to go into Alabama, and uphold the majesty of the law of Alabama and the nation. The very first trial that the boys had was one conducted by Alabama lawyers. It was such a farce that the verdict was set aside just as quickly as it was scanned by the United States Supreme Court.

What kind of a country is this, anyhow, when we are told that innocent defendants must be robbed of their rights merely because a lawyer who represents them happens not to come from the state which best suits the convenience of an element of Alabama people? And what a riot these Alabama people would raise if they were told that one of their lawyers could not get justice for his client in New York or some other state, because he happened to be an "outsider."

The truth of this whole matter is that the Scottsboro boys are absolutely innocent of the crime with which they have been charged!

Alabama Authorities of law have been caught "red-handed" in an attempt to railroad these boys to their deaths or long prison terms, solely because Alabama lawgivers do not appreciate being shown up for having falsified throughout the entire conduct of their persecution of these Negro boys. The dominant Alabama element hates everybody who exposes their false position in this world-famous case. They hate Judge James Horton, stalwart, God-fearing Alabama jurist, who set aside the verdict of guilty in one of the trials, just as much as they hate Attorney Leibowitz or the Supreme Court of the United States. They know deep down in their hearts that they have no case against the Scottsboro boys, but once having said so they must stick to it or else the world will get the notion that the Alabama system of dealing justice to Negroes is not as upright as they are continually advertising it to be.

POTTSVILLE, PA.
JOURNAL

FEB 4 1936

SCOTTSBORO AGAIN

From the start, the Scottsboro cases have been shot through with passions stemming from extraneous issues. Charges of race prejudice on one side and of Communist agitation on the other have so clouded the issue of guilt or innocence that neutral observers have ceased to hope for a just and unimpassioned disposition of the matter in Montgomery County, Alabama. In the five years since the nine young Negroes were alleged to have attacked two white girls who were riding the same freight, no more fantastic turn has been introduced than Governor Graves' reaction to the shooting of Ozie Powell, one of the convicted men.

Powell, who was handcuffed to another prisoner in the rear seat of a car which was transferring the men to jail, inflicted a knife wound on a deputy who was seated in the front of the automobile, whereupon the deputy shot the Negro through the head. The officer asserts that Powell was struggling for possession of his gun. That the prisoner slashed the deputy seems incontrovertible, but that the officer was obliged to shoot a handcuffed man in a struggle for a gun, when the prisoner was in the rear seat of the car and the deputy in front, passes belief.

Yet Governor Graves declares that his officers handled "a most delicate and deplorable situation in an efficient manner." If putting a bullet through the brain of a handcuffed prisoner calls forth from the Governor such words as "delicate" and "efficient," one shudders to think of what may happen when Alabama gets rough. Clearly the Powell incident gives the defense substantial ground for demanding at the very least a change of venue to the city of Birmingham, where metropolitanism has perhaps trimmed the crude edges of prejudice.

STAMFORD, CONN.
ADVOCATE

FEB 3 1936

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Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
February 8, 1936

A Note on Scottsboro

WE TAKE pleasure in publishing on this page today a communication from the REV. ALLAN KNIGHT CHALMERS of the Broadway Tabernacle, New York, in which he corrects certain statements made by us in an editorial on the Scottsboro case last month.

Although we had read in what seemed to us an authoritative dispatch that a definite and concerted effort had been made over a considerable period to persuade those in charge of the Scottsboro defense to relinquish it to Alabama attorneys, we accept DR. CHALMERS' statement that such was not the case. We also accept his statement that MR. LEIBOWITZ has not been retained of late by the International Labor Defense. We had read that he would be at the trial this year as the representative of that organization, but evidently we were misinformed on this point also.

Certainly it was never our intention to question the motives of DR. CHALMERS in this matter, for we are sure that he is as disinterested in his attitude, and as anxious to see justice done, as any one could be. We appreciate his action in pointing to the misconceptions of which we have been guilty.

His interpretation of our editorial to mean that of the six organizations sponsoring the Scottsboro Defense Committee, "the International Labor Defense is in fact the chief," is incorrect, except that we do feel this group to be the most important and the most offensive in the minds of Alabamians. This Communist affiliate indulged in most of the abuse of Alabama justice, and showered Alabama judges with more denunciatory telegrams than any other organization, unless we are badly misinformed. We are frankly skeptical as to its motives, but we recognize that DR. CHALMERS and his associates had no alternative but to permit it to have a part in the latest defense move.

We should like to emphasize that although MR. LEIBOWITZ was retained originally by the I. L. D. for the Scottsboro defense, and although he has said some most intemperate things about Alabama jurors, we have never had anything but admiration for his generosity and humanitarianism in defending the Scottsboro Negroes through many gruelling trials without charge and at the cost of much valuable time.

Both DR. CHALMERS and ourselves are chiefly interested in obtaining a fair trial for the Scottsboro defendants, a trial free from political and propagandist considerations. In view of DR. CHALMERS' statement that no group or lawyer in Alabama "ever offered to take over the defense," we can see that the only alternative was for a group from elsewhere to assume this responsibility. That the Scottsboro Defense Committee has done. We wish it every success.

EAGLE
Jasper - Ala.
JAN 30 1936

DUE CREDIT

No little credit is due Sheriff Sandlin and Deputy Blalock for their part yesterday in thwarting the attempted escape of three of the Scottsboro Negroes and delivery of their prisoners to the Jefferson County Jail. Had the three been in charge of more impulsive officers one can readily imagine consequences much more serious.

Some will say the officers deserve no credit; that it was their duty to deliver their prisoners safely and that the knife attack was the result of carelessness which permitted the Negroes to arm themselves. But the fact remains that none of the prisoners is dead today and that many a man both white and black has lost his life in a less reckless attempt to escape from the law.

So we congratulate Officers Sandlin and Blaclock for keeping their heads and remembering their duty as officers to protect their prisoners from their own recklessness as well as violence from the outside.

Yesterday's development was unfortunate so far as the Negroes are concerned. It will make the next trials more difficult and hurt their case just at a time when it appeared they were making progress.—B'ham. Post.

DULUTH, MINN.
HERALD
FEB 5 1936

The Scottsboro Tragedy

For years Scottsboro, Alabama, has been a familiar place to newspaper readers because of the Scottsboro case in which the fate of several young Negroes has been hanging in the balance for many months while ramifications of the South's race problem have been debated. Only recently one of the defendants in the case which dates back to 1931 was convicted for the fourth time and given a life sentence. Another defendant attacked a deputy sheriff with a knife, and was shot, the authorities reported.

Now comes word of the burning to death of 20 Negro convicts in a prison transfer truck at Scottsboro. It is described as an accident, but there is bound to be a conflicting story, unless this is an exception to every incident of the kind. There is no place in the country where such an event would have dovetailed more closely with an accusation, false or true, of inter-racial inhumanity.

It is another chapter in a long, bitter story which is a tragic one for Negroes and whites alike.

URBANA, ILL.
COURIER
FEB 4 1936

Another Scottsboro Case.

Alabamans have resented interest of Northerners in the Scottsboro case involving the fate of nine Negroes charged with a mass assault on two white women. The Scottsboro case has been tried and retried and the condemned men have been defended by legal talent from New York. There are many angles to the case, but one reason for a series of convictions may be the disposition of Alabamans to show their dislike for interference by interests outside the state.

Now Alabama is again in the news and again the dateline is Scottsboro. Twenty Negro convicts were burned to death when trapped in a truck used for the transport of prisoners from penitentiary to the highway project on which they worked under guard. Only two of a human cargo of 22 escaped with their lives from the flames fed by a drum of gasoline which overturned as the truck jolted along the road.

But while Alabama is under condemnation for brutality to prison inmates, Illinois goes about the investigation of serious charges that convicts are pampered and granted privileges hardly afforded by those outside prison walls.

Trial Date Doubtful In 'Scottsboro Case'

Advertiser

DECATUR, ALA., May 6.—(AP)—Judge W. W. Callahan, presiding jurist in the Eighth Judicial Circuit, said today that a date for renewal of trials of the "Scottsboro case" had not been fixed.

Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief of defense counsel, said recently in New York the trials possibly would be renewed before Judge J. A. Griffith, co-judge in the Eighth Circuit, who is slated to preside at the Summer term of Morgan County Circuit Court here.

5-7-36

Judge Griffith said he knew nothing regarding any new developments in the case and could not [illegible] the defense counsel's statement.

Montgomery Ala.

At Montgomery, Lieut. Gov. Knight, special prosecutor in the case, said that any conferences he entered regarding renewal of trials would be with Presiding Judge Callahan, where the cases were set for the Summer or Fall term of court.

The Scottsboro case, transferred here on a change of venue from Jackson County, grew out of the alleged assault of two white women aboard a freight train near the town of Scottsboro in 1931. There are nine negro defendants, with Heywood Patterson under a 75-year sentence.

Patterson and Clarence Norris received death sentence reversals from the Supreme Court of United States several months ago on grounds that negroes had been "systematically excluded" from jury service in the cases.

Troops To Guard Huntsville Negro

Advertiser

HUNTSVILLE, ALA., May 9.—(AP)—Behind protection of national guardsmen with bristling guns, Walter Miller, giant negro, will go to trial for his life here Monday, for the savage attack and killing of pretty, 19-year-old Vivian Woodward.

5-10-36

Precaution was taken to prevent mob action.

Montgomery Ala.

The guardsmen were expected to bring the negro here tomorrow night from Birmingham, where he is held for safekeeping in the same jail as the negro "Scottsboro" defendants.

Vivian Woodward, high school graduate, was waylaid the night of March 28, as she walked home alone from a movie. She was found behind a private garage at dawn, attacked and dying from brutal mutilation.

Mob spirit flamed as bloodhounds picked up a trail at the crime scene and followed it to a negro house. Gov. Graves ordered a concentration here of national guardsmen and fast motorcycle patrolmen to protect four negroes found in the house. Tear gas was used to disperse the mob.

A few days later Walter Miller was arrested in Terre Haute, Ind., and brought to Birmingham, authorities announced he gave a full, signed confession. The four other negroes, rushed to Birmingham for their safety, were released.

Miller pleaded not guilty when escorted here by a strong force of guardsmen to be arraigned. Tear gas again was employed when a crowd milled about the courthouse after the arraignment.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama.

5374

Scottsboro Trials to Reopen April 17; Funds Sought

Afro-American
3-21-36

NEW YORK CITY—The postponed trial of Clarence Norris, second of the Scottsboro defendants has been set for April 17 in Decatur, Ala., according to notice received by the office of Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief defense counsel. Baltimore, Md.

Norris was to have been tried in January, immediately following the trial of Haywood Patterson, but when Patterson was found guilty and sentenced to seventy-five years in the penitentiary, Judge W. W. Callahan postponed the other trials.

Renewed Support Urged

The defense announces that the setting of a definite date for the Norris trial calls for renewed support from the public in spreading the story of the case and raising funds.

Contributions may be sent to the Scottsboro Defense Committee, 112 E. Nineteenth Street, New York City, N.Y.

Scottsboro Mothers Make Plea for Help

Citywide Defense Conference Will Be Held in Hotel Delano Next Saturday

With the fifth trials of the Scottsboro boys scheduled to start on April 17, the mothers of the accused boys issued an appeal this week for support of the Scottsboro Defense Committee, which will hold a citywide conference next Saturday at the Hotel Delano, 108 West Forty-third street.

The conference, endorsed by hundreds of Harlem churches and organizations, will seek to organize into one great defense movement the thousands of friends and supporters of the boys who have already endorsed the Scottsboro Defense Committee. Plans for fundraising will also be discussed.

The story of the case will be presented with highlights and deductions interwoven. According to information received this week, the trial date for Clarence Norris, one of the nine boys, postponed last January immediately after Heywood Patterson was sentenced to 75 years, is scheduled for April 17 in Decatur. Judge W. W. Callahan ordered postponement in January on the grounds that Dr. Bridges, a material witness whose testimony was the main basis for the reversal by Judge James E. Horton in the second trial, was too ill to testify.

3-28-36

Mothers Appeal.

In connection with the fifth anniversary of the case on Wednesday, six of the Scottsboro mothers made public an appeal for their boys. It read in part: "We ask all you good people, who have helped us fight for our boys these five long years, to help us now get them free. But we can't do anything alone. You got to help us get our children back alive and free and well. One of our boys, Ozie Powell, will never be well again. They shot him down-..Five years is long enough torture boys who are as innocent of that crime they are charged with as any of you people reading this paper.

"They are going to start another trial now—the fifth one—in a few weeks. They are still going to try to send those boys to the electric chair or give them sentences like they gave Heywood Patterson.

"We, their mothers, appeal to all of you—mothers, fathers, men and women—to listen to our cry. We want our children back. Help us save their lives." It is signed by Mesdames Janie Patterson, Ada Wright, Viola Montgomery, Ida Norris, Josephine Powell and Mamie Williams.

The work of the committee, composed of representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union, the Church League for Industrial Democracy, the Methodist Federation of Social Service and the N. A. A. C. P. is being supported by scores of prominent church leaders in the metropolitan area.

They include the Revs. Allan Knight Chalmers, John Haynes Holmes, S. Howard Mellish, James Meyers, Russell Bowie, S. Parkes Cadman, Henry Emerson Fosdick, A. Clayton Powell, Jr., William Lloyd Imes, John Paul Jones, Thomas S. Hartin, Louis Midgette and W. C. Brown; also Bishop F. X. McConnell, Bishop Clark Gilbert, Rabbi Moses J. S. Abels and Rabbi A. Leventhal.

Negro Indicted In Huntsville Crime

Advertiser

HUNTSVILLE, ALA., April 10.—(AP)—First degree murder and criminal assault—both capital crimes in Alabama—were charged to Walter Miller, negro, in indictments returned today by the Grand Jury here after its investigation of the brutal slaying of blonde Vivian Woodard.

The indictments charged Miller, held in Birmingham jail for safekeeping, with the crime which brought national guardsmen and tear gas into play here March 29, when Miss Woodard, a crushed skull, dying was found in the rear of a neighbor's garage. 4-11-36

Miller, arrested Saturday in Terre Haute, Ind., confessed the attack and slaying to officers in Birmingham Monday. Montgomery, Ala.

Four other negroes, seized by a mob here March 29 after bloodhounds followed a trail from the scene of the attack to their house, remained in jail at Birmingham. No formal charges have been placed against them.

Judge Paul Speake, who will preside over Miller's trial unless a change of venue is asked and granted, called the Grand Jury into special session yesterday to consider evidence in the Woodard case.

Witnesses before it included State Highway Patrolman J. H. Lynch, who announced Miller's confession, State Investigator J. W. McClung, and Huntsville officers.

Second degree murder indictments were returned by the jury against three brothers in a recent mountain slaying, and a young Huntsville man was charged with first degree murder in the stabbing of Robert Earl Talley here several weeks ago.

Scottsboro Conference

Daily Worker

THE Scottsboro trials scheduled for April 17 have been postponed until the July term of the Morgan County (Decatur) Alabama Circuit Court. 4-3-36

Meantime the Alabama officials will seek to use this interval in perfecting their murderous plans against the nine Scottsboro boys. New York, N.Y.

Already five more innocent young Negroes were framed this week on another "rape" charge, in a lynch atmosphere whipped up by the Huntsville, Alabama, authorities. This orgy of lynch-terror is not only directed against these defendants but against the Scottsboro boys and the Negro people.

The conference called by the Scottsboro Defense Committee, tomorrow at the Hotel Delano, 1 P.M., could not take place at a better time for strengthening the fight to free the Scottsboro boys. All friends of fair play and the Negro people should give it the widest support.

SCOTTSBORO

FOR five long years the Scottsboro Boys have lived beneath the shadow of the electric chair, and in the constant fear of possible lynch agony at the hands of the first group of Alabamians who decide to "take the law into their own hands." Only such meetings as the one held in the Mather Room of the Cleveland Phillis Wheatley Association, Tuesday afternoon under the auspices of the Cleveland Joint Scottsboro Defense Committee—a prototype of similar meetings held throughout the nation on the occasion of the fifth "anniversary" of the Scottsboro case—have enabled the boys, now grown to manhood, to enjoy a faint hope of ultimate freedom.

More than fifty persons were in attendance to listen to the brief, but intent program that was featured by a review of the case by William O. Walker, local editor, and talks by Rev. Carl Asmus of the Methodist Federation for Social Justice, followed by Sam Goldman of the International Labor Defense, and Arthur Taylor of the Playhouse Settlement.

Special appeal was made for funds to be sent to the national Scottsboro Defense Committee in New York, and the local committee announced that it would forward its second $100 donation to the national office in a few days.

Meanwhile, the boys still languish in an Alabama jail, with trials postponed pending the appeal of the case of Heywood Patterson, whose convictions have twice been set aside by higher courts because of the prejudice and outright violation of constitutional rights that have marked the trials in Alabama courts.

JACKSON, MISS.
CLARION LEDGER

APR 1 - 1936

"Scottsboro" Case Influence Again Revealed In Alabama

Alabama state patrolmen and militia save four negroes suspected of assault and murder of a young white girl from lynching and get them safely into a Birmingham jail. Tear gas bombs were used on the mob that gathered around the first jail in which they were placed.

The crime, the attempted lynching, and the drastic efforts to prevent it, all gave Alabama still more sensational publicity, and in this incident the bad influence of the notorious "Scottsboro" case is again revealed.

That case has undoubtedly inspired some of the crimes of rape and murder committed in Alabama in recent years.

That case has also undoubtedly encouraged the mob spirit in many sections of Alabama, strengthening with many the argument that courts cannot be depended upon and that lynching is a deterrent to such crimes.

That case has likewise undoubtedly increased racial friction and animosity in many sections of Alabama, and the crime of which these four are suspected, two sets of bloodhounds having trailed them from the scene, was of the type which appeals strongest to the mob spirit in any section of the South—and it occurred within a few miles of the central scene of the "Scottsboro" case, in the heart of the neighborhood stirred the deepest by this case.

All these things considered, the success of the Alabama authorities in preventing a lynching is almost remarkable, and it is all the more to the credit of these authorities because of the fact that the guilt of these suspects had not been established.

MINISTERS ATTACK HUNTSVILLE SHERIFF

Post

Impeachment Recommended On 'Collusion' Charge

4-14-36

HUNTSVILLE, April 14. — (Special.)—Called into special session because of the rumblings of violence growing out of the death of Miss Vivian Woodward, the ministers of Madison County today had recommended the immediate impeachment of Sheriff [illegible] Hereford.

The ministers adopted resolutions charging that "both city and county officers seem to be in collusion with the criminals," and that "the stench of the abominable vice conditions in Huntsville has become unbearable."

A resolution was also passed "commending the Christian fortitude of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Woodward, the parents, in that they are willing to await the regular course of the law in the punishment of the murderer of their daughter."

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Montgomery
Ala

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Scottsboro Case Echo In Mobile

Advertiser

4-24-36

Negro Slayers, Convicted There, Get Retrial On 'Race Exclusion' Plea

Montgomery

New trials were granted by the Alabama Supreme Court yesterday to Frank Millhouse and R. P. Vaughn alias Albright, Mobile negroes, convicted of the hold-up murder of Neil T. Sanne, white storekeeper, and sentenced to death, because of error by the trial court in not admitting testimony bearing on the same contention made in each of these cases that was raised in the case of Clarence Norris, one of the "Scottsboro Case" defendants, and later was sustained by the U. S. Supreme Court, that the defendant was deprived of his constitutional rights because of the systematic exclusion of negroes from the jury rolls in the county in which he was indicted.

Vaughn and Millhouse were found guilty of the murder of Mr. Sanne who was shot and killed in his grocery store in Mobile during the robbery of the establishment by two negro men. Mrs. Sanne who was also in the store at the time of the hold-up, was also shot twice and seriously wounded, but ultimately recovered. She positively identified both Millhouse and Vaughn as the perpetrators of the robbery and killing. Following their conviction and sentence, the two men appealed.

Reversal and remanding of the cases yesterday, was by a majority of the Supreme Court, composed of Chief Justice John E. Anderson and Justices Lucien D Gardner, Virgil Bouldin and Joel B Brown. Justices William H. Thomas, A B. Foster and Thomas E. Knight, dissented.

Advertiser

In the majority opinion, written by Justice Bouldin in the case of Millhouse, all rulings in which also applied to and controlled the decision in that of Vaughn—it was recalled that during the trial, motion was made to quash the indictment on the ground that the defendant is of the negro race and in the selection of the grand jury which found the indictment, members of his race were systematically excluded because of race. "That the motion presented good ground to quash the indictment is unquestioned," the opinion states. It is then set out that on hearing of this motion, the defendant introduced census records showing the white male population of Mobile County to be 37,951, and the negro male population to be 19,659.

The main witness offered by the defense on hearing of the motion to quash, it is thereafter cited, was H. Austill Pharr a member of the jury commission of the county. Rulings of the trial court sustaining objections of the State to questions propounded to this witness presented the principal question for review submitted to the Supreme Court on appeal.

4-25-36

Questions Upheld

Regarding these rulings, the majority opinion says: "While the several questions may have been more aptly framed, we are of the opinion that the general tenor of the examination was permissible. True, of course, the aim was to show whether the names of negroes were systematically excluded from the jury box from which this grand jury was drawn. The questions called for the following: Was it a fact that during the entire time, some four years, of this witness's service, negroes had been systematically excluded because of race? Had any additional names been put in the box prior to the drawing of this grand jury? If so, were they not a few selected as colorable compliance with the law in anticipation of this case? Were there not less than 10 negroes so selected?

"Whether any negro was on the grand jury drawn is not sufficient to prove such motion, but it was a proper circumstance to be considered along with other evidence. The trial court was in error in the rejection of the proposed evidence.

"We would impress upon the trial courts and jury commissioners the importance of full compliance with the jury laws, that the rights of all accused under the Federal Constitution, as construed by the Supreme Court of the United States, shall be fully conserved." Particular attention is called in this connection, to the fact that the act of the Legislature approved Aug. 27, 1935, was designed "to give circuit judges more clearly defined power and discretion in having jury boxes refilled, when found necessary or expedient in the administration of justice."

Minority Opinion

In the opinion of the minority, written by Justice Foster, it is held that the question on the motion was whether the jury roll and box out of which the grand jury was drawn was made pursuant to the rule declared by the U. S. Supreme Court in the Norris case. "What had been done prior to the making of that roll is immaterial if it was properly made up," it is stated. "If negroes were not excluded from it, there could arise no question as to the cause of this exclusion. We assume the jury roll was available, since the contrary does not appear. Defendant could have examined it and questioned Mr. Pharr, or any other person as to whether there was on it a representative number of negroes. This was not done nor offered to be done. No one testified that there was not placed on the jury roll the names of negroes in material number. The affidavits offered showed that there were negroes in the county who were qualified, but there was no offer to show that their names were not on the roll."

Recalling that after the decision of the U. S. Supreme Court in the Norris case, the Governor of Alabama, in an open letter, suggested that the courts and the jury commissions comply with it, the opinion declares that "the courts had the legal right to order a new jury roll, and the box refilled, when it had been illegally done." It is then added that if in Mobile County, the jury commission had in the past violated the law and the roll had not been properly made up, "the court could and should have corrected the wrong. The burden was on defendant in respect to the roll here in question. There was no offer to show when it was made up or that negroes were left off who were qualified jurors."

Finally, in its concluding paragraph, the dissenting opinion says, "I am sure that we all accept in good spirit" the rule declared in the Norris case, "and seek to observe it. But we should not yet ourselves be led into a change of the rules pertaining to the pertinency of evidence in fear of being charged with a failure to observe it."

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama

5375

NEW YORK TIMES

JAN 24 1936

75 YEARS IN PRISON SET FOR PATTERSON

Latest Scottsboro Case Jury Varies Death Sentence He Has Heard Three Times.

HE WOULD RATHER DIE

Alabama Court Lets Verdict Wait Until the Selection of Norris Jury Is Over.

By F. RAYMOND DANIELL.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 23.—The first break in the succession of death verdicts returned against Haywood Patterson, one of nine Negro defendants in the Scottsboro case, came today when a Morgan County jury found him "guilty as charged," and fixed his punishment at seventy-five years in the penitentiary.

To persons unfamiliar with the bitterness with which the case has been surrounded the verdict may seem a Pyrrhic victory, but to Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief of the defense counsel, it was a real one. Nevertheless, he declared, he would fight on and appeal each conviction until each of the accused Negroes is freed.

The jury reached its verdict after exactly eight hours and reported to Judge William Callahan in a tense and crowded court room less than two minutes after twelve other men—all white—had been sworn to pass on the fate of Clarence Norris, another of the defendants. The two juries filed past each other in the court room, the one with a verdict found and the other supposedly with open minds.

Patterson Is Disappointed.

When the jurors in his case sent word to Judge Callahan that they were ready to report, Patterson heard the news with a sidelong glance of contempt. Three times he has heard jury foremen decree his death in the electric chair on a charge of attacking a woman. This time he was sure the verdict would be death and told his lawyers so. Later he expressed displeasure with the finding.

"I'd rather die," he said, "than spend another day in jail for something I didn't do."

His accuser, Victoria Price, a mill hand from the neighboring county of Huntsville, likewise was disappointed.

"'Twant fair," she repeated over and over, as she came from the witness room, where a few minutes before, while the crowd was waiting to hear the verdict, she had been heard laughing. Tomorrow morning she is scheduled to take the witness stand again and testify against Norris, who twice before has been condemned to death.

At 4:35, when the jury sent word that it was ready to report, Judge Callahan was selecting a jury for the Norris trial, and the court room was filled with prospective jurors whose minds, the law presumes, might be influenced by hearing a verdict in the case of a co-defendant of the man whose life is in their hands.

Jury Waits to Report Verdict.

Judge Callahan explained to John Burleson, foreman of the Patterson jury, that he was in the midst of something that could not be postponed and hustled the jury into a vacant witness room. There they waited while the selection of the Norris jury was completed at 5:10.

The Patterson jury lined up before Judge Callahan in silence while the new jury got up from the box and shuffled out to the witness room. One of the jurors stumbled a little over Patterson's legs. The judge called for the verdict and the foreman handed him a folded slip of paper.

"We, the jury, find the defendant Haywood Patterson guilty as charged and fix his punishment at seventy-five years in prison," read the clerk.

The judge took the paper back and studied it with wrinkled brow.

"The proper form of the verdict should be 'penitentiary' where the word 'prison' is used," he said. "Of course it is merely a technicality but if the defense does not object I will ask the jury if they intended to say penitentiary."

May Wait on Other Verdicts.

Nothing was said about setting a date for the formality of sentencing the prisoner, and it was understood that Judge Callahan had decided to wait until after the series of seven cases pending had been tried and pronounce sentence on all those found guilty at one time. The basis for an appeal in all the cases has been laid down by a motion for a change of venue to the United States District Court on the ground that a fair trial is impossible in Morgan County, and that Alabama statutes prevent a change of venue to some less hostile community.

Patterson and his seven co-defendants were tried originally in Scottsboro and condemned to death on April 9, 1931, for attacking Mrs. Price and Ruby Bates, another Huntsville girl, on a Southern Railway freight train near there on the preceding March 25. The ninth defendant, then only 13 years old, was held for trial in Juvenile Court.

The Supreme Court of the United States set aside the convictions and sentences imposed at Scottsboro by Judge A. E. Hawkins of Jackson County on the ground that the Negroes had not been represented "adequately" by counsel. Their first attorney was appointed by the court and was a member of the local bar, but after that the International Labor Defense took up the case and retained Mr. Leibowitz, a New York attorney.

Upon a showing that a fair trial was impossible in Jackson County, Judge Hawkins transferred the cases to Decatur, the seat of Morgan County, where Patterson was tried and again convicted on Palm Sunday, April 9, 1933, after a trial before Judge James E. Horton.

Judge Horton Set Verdict Aside.

In June, 1933, Judge Horton set aside the verdict of the jury which had condemned Patterson to death, as against the weight of evidence.

When the new trial ordered by Judge Horton began in November, 1933, Judge Callahan presided and Patterson again was convicted and condemned to die. Norris, who also was tried at that time, fared no better. Judge Callahan and the Supreme Court of Alabama upheld the convictions, but the United States Supreme Court on April 1, 1935, ordered new trials for both defendants on the ground that exclusion of Negroes from the jury rolls of Jackson County invalidated the indictments on which they were tried.

During Patterson's latest trial, Mr. Leibowitz took a back seat in the courtroom and left the spotlight to Clarence L. Watts of Huntsville, a member of the local bar.

The Patterson jury retired at 9:30 last night after hearing Judge Callahan's charge. It was the shortest trial Patterson has experienced since his original conviction at Scottsboro. Judge Callahan directed them to wait until this morning to begin their deliberations. They entered the jury room at 8:35 A. M., five minutes after the opening of court.

Norris Case Taken Up at Once.

The task of selecting a new jury from a panel of 100 on which five Negroes appeared was immediately begun. One of five Negro veniremen was excused for prejudice against capital punishment and the other four were dropped on peremptory challenges by the State.

In one group of twelve veniremen called up for individual examination by court and counsel were three men who had served on juries which have condemned one or the other of the Negroes to death. They were excused by Judge Callahan from serving, but not one of the three had raised his hand when the court asked if any of the talesmen had "fixed opinions."

The following jurors were chosen finally to try Norris on the charge on which Patterson was convicted: Ralph Aldrich of Danville, James A. Hendrix of Lacey Springs, Nelson A. Norris of Hartselle, Sherley H. Moore of Hartselle, W. E. White of Danville, William E. Irvin of Somerville, Kirby B. Holland of Decatur, Frank Reeves of Hartselle, J. H. Sanders of Lacey Springs, Cooper Thomas of Lacey Springs, Samuel H. Thomason of Decatur and Wise Tyler of Lacey Springs. Mr. Reeves is a merchant and Mr. Thomason is a shipping clerk. All the others are farmers.

In qualifying the jurors, the defense resorted to an exhaustive examination, which appeared to nettle Judge Callahan, who frequently protested and complained about "wasting time."

The defense entered exceptions.

DEFENSE WILL FIGHT ON.

Scottsboro Committee Attacks Verdict as Challenge to the Nation.

Declaring that the verdict of guilty against Haywood Patterson was a "challenge to the conscience of the nation," the Scottsboro defense committee, representing six organizations, declared last night that it will continue to aid the defense in a "fight to the finish."

The organizations represented on the committee are the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the League for Industrial Democracy, the Church League for Industrial Democracy (Episcopal), the International Labor Defense and the Methodist Federation for Social Service.

"The conviction is an outrage," said the committee in a statement, "but does not come as a surprise to those persons who have watched the proceedings in Decatur. The atmosphere in which the trial was conducted was dominated by a cold and deliberate effort toward but one conclusion, the condemnation of innocent boys regardless of all evidence. It is an injury and must be of grave concern to the people of Alabama, no less than to those of all America.

"The sentence of seventy-five years is no more lenient than a death sentence. It seems to us that this conviction is a challenge to the conscience of the nation.

"Needless to say, this committee and the people who are supporting it will continue to conduct the defense with redoubled vigor and all the resources we can command. We invite every one who has been stirred by the shame and blot of these cases on our country to join with us in a determined fight to the finish."

The Rev. Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers, pastor of Broadway Tabernacle Church, is chairman of the committee.

COUNSEL DERIDES SCOTTSBORO 'PLOT'

Times
1-26-36

Sheriff's Talk of Negroes Being Incited to Attack Is Termed 'Poppycock' by Leibowitz.

PRISONERS' VERSION TOLD

Slap for 'Sassing' Preceded Stabbing of Deputy, Shooting of Powell, Norris Asserts.

By F. RAYMOND DANIELL.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 25.—The two Negroes riding with Ozie Powell when that colored defendant in the Scottsboro case was shot in the head by a deputy sheriff denied today that there had been any attempt at an escape and Samuel S. Leibowitz of New York, chief of defense counsel, scoffed at attempts to link Northern white sympathizers with an intimated "plot."

Mr. Leibowitz, who hurried here from Chattanooga upon learning that Powell had been shot after he slashed the neck of Edgar Blalock, a deputy sheriff of Morgan County, was able to see his clients in the Jefferson County jail here only after cutting through a mass of red tape and a threat of resort to court action.

After interviewing Clarence Norris and Roy Wright in the jail and Powell, whom he found tossing in delirium in Hillman Hospital, where a bullet was removed from his brain, Mr. Leibowitz declared that the official version of the shooting was "so much poppycock."

Attempt to Escape Denied.

Norris and Wright, who were handcuffed to Powell yesterday in the automobile ride here from Decatur during which the affray occurred, denied that there was any attempt to escape.

Norris said that Powell drew the knife with which he attacked Mr. Blalock after the deputy had slapped him. He explained that Mr. Blalock had been talking "about the lawyers in the case" and that Powell had "sassed" the deputy before the blow, which may have an important effect on the outcome of the pending trials, was delivered by the officer.

Wright, who was only 13 when he was arrested with the other eight Negroes five years ago on a charge of rape by Victoria Price, denied that he had a knife or that he joined in the assault upon Sheriff Sandlin, who was driving, or upon Deputy Blalock, riding on the front seat with the Sheriff.

Meanwhile, as discrepancies appeared in the official versions of the fracas, which followed an indefinite postponement of the trials, preparations were being made at Decatur for a grand jury investigation.

Ernest Merriwether, a Negro delivery boy who Powell was said to have charged with selling to him for 30 cents the knife he used in the attack, was locked up in the county jail. Melvin C. Hutson, solicitor for the court circuit including Morgan County, said that he would present evidence in the case to the grand jury which meets Feb. 17.

It was left to Sheriff J. Street Sandlin, who has stated publicly that it was he who shot Powell, to suggest that white sympathizers with the Negroes egged them on to attempt an escape and provided them with weapons.

It was "somebody smarter than those Negroes," the Sheriff said, "who figured all that out." He spoke of "outside influence coming from white people," but refused to be more specific in his intimations.

Indictments to Be Asked.

While Mr. Hutson was reluctant to discuss the case pending completion of an investigation by Morgan County officers and a special investigator assigned by Governor Bibb Graves, it was understood that indictments charging assault with intent to murder would be sought against Powell, Norris and Wright.

Norris, it was learned today, was riding in the middle of the car, with both hands manacled. His right wrist bore marks today where the handcuffs cut into it during the scuffle.

Powell was on the right side of Norris with his right hand free. Wright sat upon his left with his left arm free.

City policemen, State highway patrolmen and deputy sheriffs guarded the ward in Hillman Hospital where Powell struggled for life.

In addition, a company of the National Guard was mobilized here to provide further protection if it was needed. There was no indication, however, that it would be.

State authorities ordered that Powell receive the best medical and surgical aid available, and it was said that he had an even chance for recovery.

Sheriff and Patrolman Differ.

Sheriff Sandlin told reporters at Decatur that the "whole thing" was planned on Thursday night after a jury had convicted Haywood Patterson for the fourth time on the story of Mrs. Price and condemned him to seventy-five years in prison.

The Sheriff said that his overnight investigation had convinced him that "no Negro" planned the alleged attempt at escape.

Contradicting the statement of Norris that Powell's attack upon Mr. Bialock was provoked by a slap administered by the latter, Sheriff Sandlin said that he and his deputy had covered ten miles without exchanging a word with the three Negro prisoners when Powell, without provocation, drew his knife on Mr. Bialock.

The Sheriff was insistent that both Powell and Wright were armed, although J. T. Bryant, a State highway patrolman who helped quell the trouble, told this corerspondent that he had seen only one knife on the back seat of the car.

Patrolman Bryant also said that the deputy's pistol was on the front seat where he had been sitting, but today it was reported that it had been thrown into the bushes by the fighting Negroes and had disappeared.

Local newspaper men interviewed the Negroes last night after their arrival here from Decatur; today it was impossible to make contact with them in the Jefferson County jail. The Birmingham News, however, quoted Powell as having said that he was the only one of the three who was armed.

Roy Wright was quoted in the same newspaper as having contradicted Powell's story that he bought the knife for 30 cents from a Negro delivery boy. According to Wright, Powell found the knife in a magazine on a shelf above his cell in Decatur. The defendants were not searched before starting on the ninety-mile trip to Birmingham.

"We wouldn't try to escape now," the paper quoted Wright as saying. "We don't believe we'll ever be sentenced to death in these cases, but we believe we'll be set free.".

"We feel we were lucky for all three of us not to have been killed because we thought that after Ozie cut the officer they were going to kill us. The Sheriff shot only one time, though, and that was when he shot Ozie, after Ozie had cut Deputy Blalock."

Norris Feared Death of Trio.

Norris was quoted as follows:

"Ozie and Officer Blalock had been talking about the case and about the attorneys in the case shortly before Ozie cut the officer. Ozie had sassed the officer and the officer had slapped him.

"A few minutes later Ozie reached his free hand into his pocket and got his knife. He opened it, then he reached over and cut Officer Blalock's throat. That was when the trouble started.

"Roy Wright did not have a knife and did not try to cut Sheriff Sandlin. We thought that after Ozie had cut the officer so bad that they was going to kill us all. They didn't shoot any of us, though, except Ozie.

"I was not hurt and Roy was not hurt. We had not planned to escape because we feel now that we will not have to escape. We believe we will get free, anyway."

G. F. Anderson, operator of a filling station within a few feet of the scene of the shooting, told the following story of what he saw:

"I saw a car pass by my place with Negroes in the rear and two white men in front. What made me take particular notice of the car was that as they drove by it was careening from side to side on the road.

"As I watched the car, it went about 100 yards down the road and then came to a dead stop. A moment later I heard a shot. I broke into a run toward the car and arrived on the scene just as one of the men stepped out of the car with a smoking pistol in his hand.

"Another man stepped out from the front right seat of the car and was holding a handkerchief to his throat. Blood was streaming down his neck and his handkerchief was very bloody.

"I looked into the rear of the car and the two Negroes on the left were holding their hands above their heads. They kept repeating: 'Boss, we haven't got anything on us. You can search us. We haven't got nothing on us at all.'

"The third Negro, seated on the right, was bleeding from a wound in the right forehead. It looked to me like part of his forehead had been torn away by a bullet.

Wind-up of the Affray.

"A few minutes later several other cars, loaded with State highway patrolmen and with some other Negroes in the rear of two of the cars, drove up.

"As soon as they found out what had happened, one of the men who had arrived after the shooting placed the wounded white man in his car and drove off in the direction of Cullman. Blood from the wounded man's throat had formed a large pool in the middle of the highway.

"The other men then got into their cars and drove off with the Negroes in the same direction. The Negro that had been shot was unable to move. Just before the Negroes were driven off, they were searched in the car, while the other Negroes in the other cars, after being brought back to the scene, were made to get out of the cars and also were thoroughly searched."

Thomas E. Knight, Lieutenant Governor of Alabama and special prosecutor for the Negroes' trials, said in Montgomery that he supposed the defense attorneys would seize upon the shooting as a further argument for a change of venue to the United States District Court.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
NEWS

JAN 25 1936

Scottsboro Defendants Appear Doomed

IT IS now quite obvious that the defendants in the Scottsboro rape case are going to pay what the prejudiced community considers a proper price, perjury, denials of the accusations by one of the alleged victims, and supreme court notwithstanding.

There is sufficient doubt involved in the charges against these seven Negro boys to make any legal convictions virtually impossible if justice is to prevail. After three convictions carrying the death penalty, Haywood Patterson, one of the seven, was again found guilty and sentenced to 75 years in prison.

But yesterday one of the other defendants was shot by a guard. The reason given was that the victim, Ocie Powell, wielded a knife which wounded a state trooper.

Ever since this case first came into the spotlight it has been attended by farcical circumstances and an unyielding insistence on the part of southern public opinion that the prisoners must serve as an example regardless of circumstances.

Andalusia, Ala., News
January 30, 1936

THE "SCOTTSBORO" CASE

The nine Scottsboro negroes were found guilty. They should have been punished long ago. We are not in sympathy with them and neither are our own negroes in sympathy with them.

The shooting of one of them by a sheriff after the negro had knifed a deputy and the glaring headlines in the daily newspapers only ends to further arouse the passions of our people.

What a pity that our laws allow such a rotten mess to continue week after week, month after month, and year after year. This case has cost the people of Alabama thousands of dollars and it is not settled yet. It has caused unkind and unjust criticism from people in every state in the Union. What will be the final analysis, is yet to be known.

Personally, we would like to see those nine negroes and their imported lawyers put on a ship headed for the Sargasso sea.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama.

5376

"Compromise"

Amsterdam News

SEVENTY-FIVE years in prison! That is the sentence imposed upon Haywood Patterson, one of the Scottsboro defendants, when his fourth trial was concluded last week in Decatur, Ala. Three times before he sat in the shadow of death, and now Southern injustice essayed to dispose of this symbol of oppression and inhumanity by "compromise."

Thus the Scottsboro case is hurled anew into the consciousness of those millions who know by evidence that the nine youths were seized and condemned as a sacrifice to hatred and racial prejudice, as an offering to the hoary fiction of unblemished white womanhood.

2-1-36

"Say to yourselves we're tired of this job and put it behind you. Get it done quick and protect the fair womanhood of this state."

New York

Thus the local prosecutor closed his remarks to the all-white jury, cautiously evading the fact that the Scottsboro boys' accusers were two hobo prostitutes, one of whom recanted and admitted that they had been told to frame the youths on a fateful day in 1931.

The defense was cut off in the middle by Judge Callahan, who shouted:

"We don't want any further argument!"

Previously the jurist had refused to permit to be read testimony of a physician who examined the state's star witness and found no evidence of treatment such as she alleged.

Since Victoria Price, the state's complaining witness, is a white woman, she did not yield willingly to a Negro defendant. That, it would appear, evidenced a desire to advance the presumption that Patterson is guilty. Judge Callan's charge to the jury included the direction that the defendant must be held innocent until proved guilty followed the vigorous request of the defense.

When the court left it to the jury to decide whether it would wait until morning to reach a verdict one of the jurors shouted:

"Let's come back tonight and get it over with!"

* * *

As if this travesty upon justice were not sufficient, the "majesty" of Alabama law was portrayed vividly again the next day when Ozie Powell, one of the Scottsboro boys being returned to the jail in Birmingham for safekeeping, was shot down by a deputy sheriff on the road. Powell, it appears after study of the many versions, stabbed the officer in the neck after he demanded that the boys give up their counsel and the youth was slapped for disagreeing with the white man. It is fairly well established that the boy was shot after he was disarmed, and that the officers threatened to kill all the boys. Now the governor of Alabama praises the officer as a man who did his duty.

If the Scottsboro boys ask millions to stop fighting for them, if they accept white "counsel" picked by the Negro-hating element, then they will be extended "compromises" which are no less than imprisonment until they die.

The Scottsboro case is our battle. We must not grow weary or justice will perish.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.
Times Union
FEB 22 1936

DURKEE DEFENDS SCOTTSBORO BOYS

Pastor, Where Beecher Auctioned Slave, Asks Church Folk to Aid Youths.

From the same pulpit in which Henry Ward Beecher auctioned a slave girl just before the Civil War to stir sympathy for the colored folk in the South, the Rev. Dr. J. Stanley Durkee last night appealed to all religious leaders in the North to unite to help the nine youths in the Scottsboro case. He addressed a mass meeting held at the Plymout Church of the Pilgrims Hicks and Orange sts., by the interracial and the civic and moral affairs commissioners of the Brooklyn Church and Mission Federation and the Scottsboro Defense Committee.

"These boys," declared Dr Durkee, "are innocent of the attack charged by the white girl. But even if they were guilty, the guilt would not rest so much on them as on the society of which they are a part.

Youths Called Innocent

"The boys are innocent and certainly the last court announcement in Alabama proves it. The fact is that Alabama itself, and all the finest brains of church and State there, believe the boys to be innocent. Then why the result as it is? The question before the American people is, have we grown big enough to bury our prejudice? It is a clear case of brutal prejudice, nothing more and nothing less. The best people in Alabama believe the boys are not guilty, yet they stand by an outgrown creed to show to the world how big they are by trampling on the colored people.

"But we can stand here and score Alabama all night and not get anywhere. What we must do is to have all the religious leaders in the North combine in an appeal to those in Alabama and warn them that they must gain justice for the boys or be held up as anathema forever. I promise you that this historic church will always be open to protest mass meeting until justice is won."

Dr. Stamm Presides

The five-year history of the case was detailed by the Rev. Dr. Frederick K. Stamm, pastor of the Clinton Ave. Community Church, who presided.

"This is the kind of case in which Dr. Beecher could not have held his tongue, and in which Lincoln, who once worshipped in this church, could not have kept silent," declared Roy Williams, assistant secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. "Let us carry on what Dr. Beecher and Lincoln started and help the Scottsboro boys."

Other speakers were Rabbi Moses J. S. Abels, president of the Brooklyn Jewish Ministers' Associ-

ation; Frank D. Griffin, field organizer of the New York District, International Labor Defense, and the Rev. John Paul Jones, pastor of the Union Church of Bay Ridge.

CHICAGO, ILL.
CHRISTIAN CENTURY
FEB 5 - 1936

Scottsboro—The Shadow Deepens

ONE more Scottsboro trial has been held, and the threads of that celebrated case are now more sadly tangled than ever. The actual trial this time was far less complicated and less bitterly contested than before. For the fourth time Heywood Patterson was the Negro selected as defendant. The technicality upon which the supreme court upset the death verdict entered against him in the third trial was met by having Negroes in the jury panel; none of them, however, reached the jury box. Judge W. W. Callahan, having announced his intention of "debunking" the proceedings, ruled on testimony in such a way as finally to make the case, to all intents and purposes, a simple choice between the word of Mrs. Victoria Price, the white woman who charged that she had been raped, and of Patterson, who denied it. Ruby Bates, who was originally associated with Mrs. Price in making the charges and later denied their truth, did not testify. Neither did other witnesses whose testimony, in former trials, has cast doubt on Mrs. Price's allegations. The outcome—a verdict of guilty but with punishment fixed at imprisonment for seventy-five years instead of execution—can therefore be regarded as a sort of rough compromise arrived at by a jury of southern white men who felt it necessary to demonstrate that the word of a white must always be taken in preference to the word of a black, but who nevertheless felt in their own secret hearts that there was reason to regard the white woman's testimony with suspicion. Having sentenced Patterson to spend the rest of his life in prison, Judge Callahan postponed indefinitely the trials of the eight other young Negroes.

Will the Truth Ever Come to Light?

THERE the Scottsboro case might have come to rest, with the prospect that the other defendants would have eventually received sentences like that imposed upon Patterson. It would not have been justice—seventy-five years in prison for a crime one did not commit is hardly justice—but at least it would not have been legalized murder. Then, in the twinkling of an eye, the whole aspect of the case was changed, and today no one can so much as guess what the outcome will be. With their trials indefinitely postponed, three of the boys were taken from Decatur to Birmingham in an automobile driven by the Decatur sheriff, a deputy sheriff accompanying him as a guard. The three prisoners, manacled to one another, sat on the back seat of the car; the two sheriffs in front. Hopelessly contradictory stories of what happened have been given out. The only thing of which the outside world can be sure is that one of the boys, Ozie Powell, having in some way obtained a knife, used his free hand to slash the deputy sheriff's neck, and that the sheriff thereupon shot Powell through the brain. At the moment of writing, the deputy sheriff's wounds are reported to be healing; it is not yet known whether Powell will survive. The further inquiry has been pressed into this new tragedy, the less likely has it appeared that the truth about it will ever be certainly established. However, the Negro boys have unquestionably been once more fixed in the inflamed minds of Alabamans as young desperadoes, now guilty of the unforgivable crime (for Negroes) of assault on an officer of the law. The result is almost certain to be a new series of trials in which the mass pressure of local opinion will be exerted to keep the juries from voting anything less than death sentences. But there will be widespread suspicion in other parts of the nation that the Alabama law officers were not wholly guiltless in provoking Powell's mad assault.

Scottsboro Committee Welcomes Aid

New Alabama Group Not to Influence Conduct of Defense

Replying to an announcement from Alabama of the formation of an Alabama Scottsboro Committee the national Scottsboro Defense Committee here issued a statement reaffirming its exclusive conduct of the defense of the nine Scottsboro boys and welcoming the formation of the Alabama Committee to aid in their defense. The conduct of the future trials rests in the discretion of the Committee, the defendants, their families and Attorney Samuel Leibowitz, it declared.

Issue Statement

The statement emphatically declared that Lieutenant Governor Thomas E. Knight, special prosecutor of the boys for five years, "shall have no part in determining counsel" for the Scottsboro defendants. "Samuel S. Leibowitz is chief counsel for the Scottsboro boys and there is no basis for any impression to the contrary," the statement said.

The statement, in full, declared:

"This committee is in full charge of the Scottsboro case as it has been since its formation. At that time all of the various organizations believing in the innocence of the Scottsboro boys and having as their aim the acquittal and freedom of the nine youthful victims of injustice united their strength in this committee. In doing so, we agreed to draw into this committee or into co-operation with it other organizations and public-spirited citizens who might share our aims and purposes.

Welcome Aid

"Several outstanding organizations and many prominent citizens of Northern and Southern States have responded by giving us their support in one form or another. It was and is our natural desire that organizations and citizens of Alabama should have a high place in sharing this grave responsibility and participating in this service of the cause of justice.

"The formation of an Alabama Scottsboro Committee to add its strength to the defense of the boys is not in any sense at cross purposes with our efforts. On the contrary, we most cordially welcome its formation.

"We do not know how it happens that Lieutenant Governor Thomas E. Knight, Jr., special prosecutor appears to have possession of correspondence between friends of the defense nor by what right he undertakes a premature announcement of the formation of an Alabama committee for the aid of the defendants, but it is to be presumed that Mr. Knight's motives are those of the prosecution. We state most emphatically that Mr. Knight shall have no part in determining counsel for the boys whom he has prosecuted for more than five years for a crime of which they are innocent.

Leibowitz Chief Counsel

"Samuel S. Leibowitz is chief counsel for the Scottsboro boys and there is no basis for any impression to the contrary. In the final analysis the legal conduct of the future trials will rest in the joint discretion of this committee, the defendants, their families and Mr. Leibowitz."

The Scottsboro Defense Committee is located at 112 East Nineteenth Street, New York City. Funds for defense purposes should be sent to this address.

EDMONDS AFFIRMS SCOTTSBORO PLAN

Birmingham Minister Deplores 'Premature' Release But Is Still Hopeful

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., June 11.—(AP)—While deploring "premature" release of plans, Dr. Harry M. Edmonds, Alabama Scottsboro committe chairman, said today he still was hopeful Alabama counsel may be obtained for the nine negroes in the "Scottsboro case."

Formation of the Alabama Scottsboro Committee, of 31 members, and a request for the State Bar Association to select two attorneys to represent the negroes, charged with attacking two white women, was revealed in Montgomery Tuesday.

Correspondence dealing with the committee was made public by Lieut. Gov. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., State's special prosecutor in the case. It indicated Samuel Leibowitz, New York, lawyes, might withdraw as counsel for the negroes. A statement by Leibowitz in New York, however, indicated he had no such intention.

A formal statement by Dr. Edmonds said:

"We were proceeding upon repeated requests, both personal and by correspondence, from Scottsboro defense committee of New York to form a State group of representative men and women, who would assume in the name of the citizens of Alabama the responsibility for naming legal defense counsel to cooperate with Mr. Clarence Watts, of Huntsville, already associated with the defense. Such counsel was to be acceptable to the New York committee as well as to ourselves.

"The delicacy of the situation has been from the first apparent to us all, both here and in New York. Nevertheless, we were just about to reach a mutually satisfactory understanding upon which a public statement could have been made, when the communication with the bar association was given to the press without the knowledge or consent of either Alabama Scottsboro Committee or of the president of the bar association.

"We hope, even now, that this untimely release will not prejudice the situation. We are still ready to go ahead and complete the negotiations if possible, because we are still of the opinion that prejudice can be allayed and justice secured more surely and more speedily if the defense is in the hands of the best available Alabama attorneys."

Montgomery, Ala. Journal
June 10, 1936

STATE LAWYERS URGED IN CASE

New 'Scottsboro' Defense by Alabamians Advocated by Committee

Another chapter in the turbulent "Scottsboro case" was being written Wednesday as a group of prominent Alabamians recommended the employment of state lawyers for the nine negro defendants "after the withdrawal" from the five-year-old case of Samuel Leibowitz of New York, chief defense counsel.

The group, organized as the Alabama Scottsboro committee, was headed by Dr. Henry Edmonds, pastor of the Independent Presbyterian church of Birmingham, who is widely known for his work toward improving racial relations in the south.

Leibowitz Firm

At New York, Leibowitz declared he had no intention of withdrawing from the case, stating that "the American Scottsboro committee with headquarters in New York is the one in charge of the case. The Alabama committee has nothing to do with it."

The state committee called on Files Crenshaw, Sr., of Montgomery, president of the Alabama Bar association, to have the state bar select two attorneys to represent the defendants, indicted on charges of attacking two white women aboard a freight train at Paint Rock, Ala., March, 1931.

Waights M. Taylor of Birmingham, committee secretary, wrote Crenshaw, that "the Alabama Scottsboro committee is confident that the request for designation of Alabama counsel to assist in the defense will come from the defendants themselves, after the withdrawal of Mr. Leibowitz from the case." Crenshaw agreed to submit the committee's request to the State Bar association but pointed on to Dr. Edmonds that the defendants have the right to choose their own counsel.

The nine defendants are held in jail at Birmingham, eight awaiting trial, the ninth sentenced to 75 years imprisonment.

Transmittal of the committee's request by Crenshaw to Lt.-Governor Thomas E. Knight, Jr., special "Scottsboro" prosecutor, revealed the formation of the committee whose members included Dr. George H. Denny, president of the University of Alabama, former Governor Thomas E. Kilby of Anniston, F. T. Raiford, publisher of The Selma Times Journal, James Chappelle, publisher of The Birmingham News and Age-Herald, Dr. Guy Snavely, president of Birmingham-Southern college, and others.

Knight, in replying to Crenshaw, said that "if it is within their province, I hope the State Board of Bar commissioners will take whatever action they see fit, but of course, I, as special prosecutor have nothing to say as to who shall be appointed to represent these defendants."

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COLUMBIA, MO.
MISSOURIAN
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Prejudices Recur

SHOOTING of one of the Negroes in the "Scottsboro Case" and the burning to death of twenty Negro convicts in Alabama, all within a week's time, has stirred comment in Europe as well as in the United States.

The tragedy caused London newspapers to wire Birmingham officers, "Were the Scottsboro Negroes taken out and burned?" Fortunately, they were not among the twenty burned.

Alabama officials may be charged with carelessness for allowing a leak or open can of gasoline to be carried in the truck with the convicts. But if it had been intentional, the truck doors would not have been thrown open to give the Negroes a chance to escape. Two or three of them were saved.

Gov. Bibb Graves commended the officers for shooting the Negro in the "Scottsboro Case." The governor said that they only did their duty. The Negro was attacking the guard when he was shot. The Associated Press even quoted the Negro as saying that he had used a knife. A bad wound inflicted on one of the guards proves this statement.

The Negro is still alive. That is the best proof that can be offered by Alabama. Not only was he spared after he was shot down, but he was quickly given the best medical attention possible.

Long notoriety given the "Scottsboro Case," much propaganda, unfavorable to Alabama law and order, has caused many to believe that these tragedies were intentional and unjustified.

The Missourian frequently has urged against mob violence and hysterical race prejudice. But also let us not submit to prejudice against white people every time a Negro is accidentally injured in the South. Prejudice works both ways. Sectionalism still lives emotionally between North and South. But it is unfortunate that it is true.

Impeachment Of Callahan Is Advocated

Journal and Guide

New Orleans Group Adopt Resolutions Censuring Judge

2-22-36

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (ANP)—Among the many telegrams received by Gov. Bibb Graves of Alabama demanding a full and complete investigation of the shooting of Ozzie Powell by an officer while returning handcuffed from the Scottsboro trials at Decatur, was one by Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell of Illinois.

In his wire, the lone Negro member of Congress declared he hoped a thorough investigation of the attack and shooting would be undertaken by officials at the behest of the governor.

WANT JUDGE IMPEACHED

NEW ORLEANS, La. (ANP)—Resolutions adopted here Sunday afternoon at a city-wide meeting and sent to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, urged that Judge W. W. Callahan, who presided at the recent trial of Heywood Patterson of the Scottsboro case, be impeached "for his prejudice and lynch-inciting actions" at the trial.

The meeting was sponsored by the National Assocaition for the Advancement of Colored People; the International Labor Defense, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Methodist Federation for Social Service, and the Socialist Party and was presided over by Jas. F. Gayle, president of the local branch of the NAACP.

THE PETITION

The text of the petition sent to President Roosevelt was as follows:

"Having heard a report on the Scottsboro case and the recent trial and the murderous attempt on the life of the defendants, Ozzie Powell by Sheriff J. Street Sandlin, of Decatur, we the organizations participating in this meeting declare:

"That this attempt on the life of Powell was a result of the prejudiced remarks and attitude of Judge Callahan at the recent trial, that it is an attempt by the prejudiced rule of Southern Bourbons to stir up a lynch atmosphere in order to dispose of the nine innocent boys by violence;

"We further declare that the whole Scottsboro case is one that affects the entire working class and shows the length to which the ruling class will go to oppress the workers, the farmers and the oppressed Negro people;

"We further declare that the course of events has amply shown that it is impossible for the nine defendants to get a fair trial in Alabama courts. Therefore we demand:

"That Judge Callahan be impeached for his prejudiced and lynch inciting actions in the conduct of the trial;

"That Sheriff Sandlin be arrested, indicted and punished for the shooting of Ozzie Powell;

"That the defendants who proved their innocence be given immediate and safe release;

"That President Roosevelt and the federal government take action against the lynchers of Alabama and give protection to the boys;

"We further pledge to unite our efforts and to do all we can to broaden the fighting front for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys and to actively carry on a campaign against lynching terror and fascist danger."

"ESCAPE" PLOT AIRED

DECATUR, Ala. (ANP)—Announcing that his investigation had failed to substantiate charges that Ozzie Powell, Scottsboro defendant shot in the head while handcuffed on the return to the Birmingham jail, had obtained the knife with which he cut Deputy Sheriff Ed Blalock from Ernest Merriweather, local drugstore delivery boy, Sheriff Sandlin, who released the lad on January 27, declares:

"All I have are the statements of the Scottsboro Negroes. It is my belief the Negroes were coached to lay the blame on Merriweather. For that reason, I turned him loose."

Sheriff Sandlin said he was still proceeding on the theory that white persons, presumably northern, were involved in the escape plot and furnished the two knives found in the car that were returning Powell, Roy Wright and Clarence Norris to Birmingham.

"I believe that my investigation will lead to white persons," Sandlin asserted. "From what I have uncovered thus far, the Negro, Merriweather was noa involved."

Two Scottsboro Boys Charged with Murder

Daily Worker

Powell and Wright Indicted by Grand Jury, Decatur Reports Say—Court Refuses Statement of Newest Action

DECATUR, Ala., Feb. 23.—Roy Wright and Ozie Powell, two of the nine Scottsboro boys, have been indicted for assault with intent to murder, according to reports received today.

The grand jury's bill charged the two defendants with intent to murder Deputy Sheriff Edgar Blalock when the latter and his chief Sheriff Sandlin, attempted to lynch young Powell near Cullman, Ala., an all-white town, on Jan. 24, the report stated. Judge W. W. Callahan refused to confirm the report.

Both Wright and Powell are at present under indictment for rape of Victoria Price, who swore falsely that she and Ruby Bates were assaulted by the Scottsboro moys in 1931.

Deputy Sheriff Blalock was scratched on the throat by a knife used by Ozie Powell when the letter was attacked for refusing to renounce his defense attorneys retained by the Scottsboro Defense Committee. Powell, Wright and Clarence Norris, another of the defendants, were heavily handcuffed together in a locked automobile when they were being returned from Decatur to Birmingham after the trial of Haywood Patterson.

Using the pretext that the three youths were "attempting to escape," Sheriff Sandlin stopped the car, got out, and deliberately emptied his shotgun into the brain of Ozie Powell, and threatened to murder the other two boys.

A major operation on Powell removed a bullet imbedded one and a half inches in his brain. He now lies in the Birmingham (Jefferson County) jail, paralyzed in his right side and hovering between sanity and insanity.

The theory that the boys had purchased a knife from Ernest Merriwether, a Negro boy in Decatur, and planned to escape, collapsed when third degree methods used on Merriwether failed to force an admission that he had sold a knife to Powell. Merriwether was relersed.

Gov. Graves, upon hearing of the lynch-attempt by Sheriff Sandlin, complimented him for doing his duty "efficiently."

Patterson was sentenced to 75 years by Judge W. W. (Speed) Callahan. Trials of the other eight boys were postponed indefinitely.

AN ATTITUDE OF DEFIANCE

NEGROES OF THE SOUTH as well as their friends do not question but that there are many thousands of earnest, justice-favoring influential white leaders in all sections of the Southland who are opposed to the flagrant injustices as are directed toward members of the Negro racial group, but when cases come to light wherein cruel, unjust and defiant attitudes are exhibited as was true in the shooting of one of the Negro youths involved in the Scottsboro, Alabama debacle, the question readily arises as to whether there is an indifference on the part of these friends of justice or whether there is a downright fear of the prejudiced mob element who indicate by their actions a desire to wipe the Negro from the face of the earth.

It should be plain to the most casual observer, that continued tolerance of such a hostile spirit as exhibited by the Alabama sheriff who deliberately pulled his revolver and fired a bullet into the brains of one of the handcuffed Negro youths under the pretext of protecting a fellow officer, will only serve to encourage such mobocracy to the extent of bringing about similar attacks on white persons.

Judging from reports emanating from the Alabama section where the attempted lynching was staged, one not knowing the situation would opine that the Scottsboro defendants had been taken over to the scene of the trial, released from their manacles and allowed to roam the streets of the Alabama village, swapping knives for marbles, chalk and candy.

Be as charitable as one may in accepting the reported version of the affair involving the shooting of the Negro prisoner, it is thoroughly apparent that the spirit of hate for the nine Negro youths permeated the very beings of those in whose custody they were held as they rode through a town noted for its display of signs, "Nigger, don't let the sun go down on your head here," and whose citizens are so hostile toward Negroes that railroads were forced to take trainmen of the Negro racial group from trains operated there because of the hostilities directed.

It may be the concensus of opinion on the part of Governor Bibb Graves, Lieut.-Governor Knight, and others of their ilk that the "Negro must be held in subjection," and the only means of accomplishing such is the employment of brutality, even on the part of officers of the law, as was enacted at Lacon, Alabama, last week, but it should be plain that such a plan is altogether too cruel, unjust and in utter defiance of law and order.

There is an element of consolation involved in the unfortunate situation, however, when it is plain that the pistol wielding minion of the law apparently went as far as he dared in his hate-bearing attack. There have been times in Alabama, if a Negro defendant charged with crime of far less gravity than the Scottsboro charges, had been lucky enough to gain the attention of the courts, it would have been utterly impossible to find a piece of his hide the size of a dime; that is if the officer felt inclined to take the law into his own hands.

The sheriff, without doubt, experienced a feeling of restraint from some source or other, when he didn't empty all of the bullets from his pistol into the body of the Negro youth, and even into the bodies of the others. Whether it was the long arm of the United States Supreme Court or the sentiment of many Alabama white people who favor law and order, is not plain at this time, but the other eight defendants should thank their stars for whatever halted the hostilities of these officers of the law.

However, there may be a decided element of good to come out of so ill a wind in that it will give, even the citizens of Alabama, a deeper insight into the dangerous attitude surrounding them, wherein one of their high sheriffs will resort to such a thorough disregard for his obligation of office. Despite the condonation expressed by Governor Graves, it is hoped that justice will eventually gain the throne and such criminal attitudes will be forced into subjection.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
June 11, 1936

The Scottsboro Committee

The dual objective implicit in the formation of the Alabama Scottsboro committee must command the unqualified support of all good citizens of Alabama, whatever their convictions or lack of them as to the guilt or innocence of the nine Negroes in the now five-year-old case that unhappily has attracted world attention to this state and its processes of justice.

That objective obviously is at once specifically to obtain and expedite justice for the defendants—a justice not colored or distorted by the numerous extraneous issues that have been introduced into the case both here and from afar—and in general to uphold the law and the good name of this state.

Certainly all fair-minded citizens want only justice for these Negroes—but they do want that and they do want it no longer delayed than is absolutely necessary. And they must want to do all they can to redeem Alabama from the influences underlying whatever fair charges have been made against her in this case as well as to defend her against the grossly unfair aspersions which it has prompted throughout the world.

* * *

Surely then the committee will find sympathetic and widespread support. How successful it can be in its high objectives, of course, remains to be seen.

It has courageously undertaken with unassailable motive an extremely difficult and delicate task. So delicate and difficult is it, indeed, that such a thing as premature publicity concerning its plans could easily have a very unfortunate effect.

The Age-Herald is devoted to the full publicization of all matters of public concern and importance at the proper time. If there is doubt as to the proper time, usually it resolves that doubt in favor of sooner rather than later publicity.

But there can be little doubt that the proper time hardly had come for announcement of the committee and its plans. That would better have awaited a withdrawal of Mr. Leibowitz (if, indeed, it now is to come) from the case and a request from the defendants themselves for the appointment of new counsel.

It is difficult to see how Lieut. Gov. Knight, special prosecutor in the case, reasoned that he was at liberty to release the correspondence. It is easier to agree literally that, as he said, he "took" the liberty.

Still no great harm is done. The only danger is of misunderstanding of the committee's purposes, a misunderstanding which might wreck its usefulness. *The Age-Herald* earnestly trusts there will be no such misunderstanding.

* * *

The committee, as this paper understands it, specifically desires it emphasized that it has no organic connection with any organizations outside the state which have interested themselves in the case. That should be borne clearly in mind. Not all those organizations have sought only simple justice.

The committee believes justice will be served and expedited by the elimination, so far as possible, of extraneous issues, passions and distracting personalities from the case.

Such an accomplishment, even in part, should serve not only justice in this specific case but the good name of this state.

Alabama yet can show itself and its justice and its citizenship capable of finally disposing of this case with ultimate honor and equity.

It is the profound hope of the committee — and, incidentally, of this newspaper—that Alabama will swiftly and conclusively do just that.

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Alabama Not Eager for Scottsboro Boys' Blood

Afro-American 11-14-36 Baltimore, Md.

AFRO Reporter Finds Changed Sentiment Toward Noted Case

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — A decided change in public sentiment, favorable to the nine Scottsboro boys, is evident here as the date for resumption of trials in the five-year-old case nears.

Thinking white citizens are expressing themselves openly in this regard, and the eagerness for a blanket death sentence, once apparent among the masses, is definitely diminishing.

The new trials, scheduled for November 2, have been postponed until December or January, due to the illness of Judge W. W. (Speed) Callahan, 80, stocky, ruddy-faced and gruff of voice.

Just why A. A. Griffiths, who shares the same judicial district, was not substituted is not clear.

Views Vary on Leibowitz

Dr. Henry E. Edmonds, pastor of the Birmingham Independent Presbyterian Church, and head of the Alabama Scottsboro committee insists that Samuel Leibowitz will not be in command when the case is called.

But Heywood Patterson, one of the nine defendants who three times has heard the death sentence pronounced upon him and last January was sentenced to seventy-five years in prison, says of the New York attorney:

"I like Mr. Leibowitz; he's a good lawyer. He's been good to me, yes sir!"

Patterson, incidentally, is the only colored man ever convicted on a rape charge in Alabama who received any sentence other than death.

Confinement Telling

On a recent visit to the $3,000,000 Jefferson County jail, where the boys are now confined, I found them showing various ill effects of their five and one-half years of incarceration.

The light in their eyes is no longer bright. The vim, vigor and vitality that characterized all nine at the time of their arrest has vanished. They shoulders are stooped and they are but shells of their former selves.

Gone is the happy smile. The nearest approach to it is a crackly imitation that forms for a second and then fades back into a solemn, sad mask.

One Nearly Blind

Escorted through the jail by the warden, I saw a frail youth idling in the runway between two "bull pens" whom I took to be a trusty, but was informed:

"That's Olin Montgomery [one of the Scottsboro boys]. See, he's wearing glasses—almost blind."

He hung back and seemed reluctant to join us. I could tell his mind—or what was left of it—was ten thousand miles away. It was plain that he didn't want to talk to anyone.

Passing down the corridor, the warden announced that we would see "some more of the Scottsboro boys."

A trusty leaped to attention, thrust a key into a door and there was a buzzing sound. Colored lights like those in traffic signals flashed on and off and presently a small steel door about a foot wide opened.

This permitted insertion of a key into the lock of the main door, a masisve thing like that on a afe. This opened and we walked into a runway before half dozen cells. There, within reaching distance, were Heywood Patterson, Joe Crowell, Charlie Weems and Roy Wright.

Pathetic Scene

It was pathetic. It was amazing. And it was heroic the way those four boys bore up under the ordeal of talking to persons who enjoy the privileges of a "free world" outside the cold bars that seem to be their home indefinitely.

"Come here Heywood," the warden ordered.

Patterson unhesitatingly came to the bars and clutched them. He was immaculately attired, his hair was parted neatly in the middle and he talked with the accent of a Northerner, although born and reared in Tennessee.

He didn't seem to belong in his surroundings at all. It seemed he was in readiness to escort his best girl to a Saturday night ball. Asked whether he found it lonesome he replied:

"Yes sir, I certainly do get lonesome at time; it's mightly blue with nothing to do. There's very little a fellow in my position can do. I sleep a lot and I have my Bible that I read some every day without fail."

All Have Bibles

Friends have seen to it that each of the boys has a Bible.

"No," said Chief Warden Pinson with a twinkle in his eyes, "Heywood stays around mighty close, I must say he does for a fact. Now you don't ever see him out running around going to ball games, picture shows and dances like some of the other boys his age. No sir, he stays around awful close."

Whereupon Patterson looked around and indulged in a good-natured laugh.

"One thing they've all got plenty of is time," the warden added.

I found Joe Crowell in the best humor of all. He joked, wise-cracked and answered questions good-naturedly. But, toward the end, his smile sagged and he couldn't resist inquiring "When are we going to know something about ourselves — when's something going to happen?"

Charlie Weems was different. He was sad. Wearing tortoise shell glasses and conducting himself with a quiet reserve, he might well pass for a minister of the gospel. Seated on the lower of two bunks, he seemed pre-occupied with writing a letter to someone.

Admires Joe Louis

On the top berth could be seen a box of writing paper, envelopes, newspapers, magazines and pictures. One of his prized possessions is a photograph of Joe Louis, the Detroit Brown Bomber, in full fighting pose.

It cheers Weems to look at Joe exuding confidence to conquer anything and everything for his race.

Roy Wright was a pert young man who put questions to us as fast as we put them to him. He, like Crowell, wanted to "know something about our situation." He, too, said he was satisfied with counsel.

3 Others Together

On another floor a cell block held three other Scottsboro defendants: Eugene Williams, Willie Robinson and Andy Wright.

They had just finished their baths and were receiving attention from a barber attached to the jail. These boys were not so talkative as the other four, but they answered questions readily enough. Wright's mother has made a valiant fight in his behalf.

In the hospital ward we found Ozie Powell, who was shot in the head by a deputy last January, when he allegedly tried to cut one of his guards while en route to the Morgan County courthouse for the trial.

"Here's where the bullee went," Powell said, touching the spot with his finger, "unless you look very close you cannot see it. It was a close call though."

In spite of Jefferson county's pride in its jail and the care of its prisoners, the nine Scottsboro defendants cannot maintain their normally healthy bodies with constant denial of nature's free gifts, sunshine and fresh air.

Hard on Minds

Their limited quarters cramp their legs and the eternal sight of gray prison walls is enough to cause their minds to snap.

But a transition is underway, reports to the contrary notwithstanding. The desire to encircle their necks with ropes and throw the hempen strand over the nearest limb is not as apparent as it was. Sentiment is slowly but surely changing in favor of the nine boys.

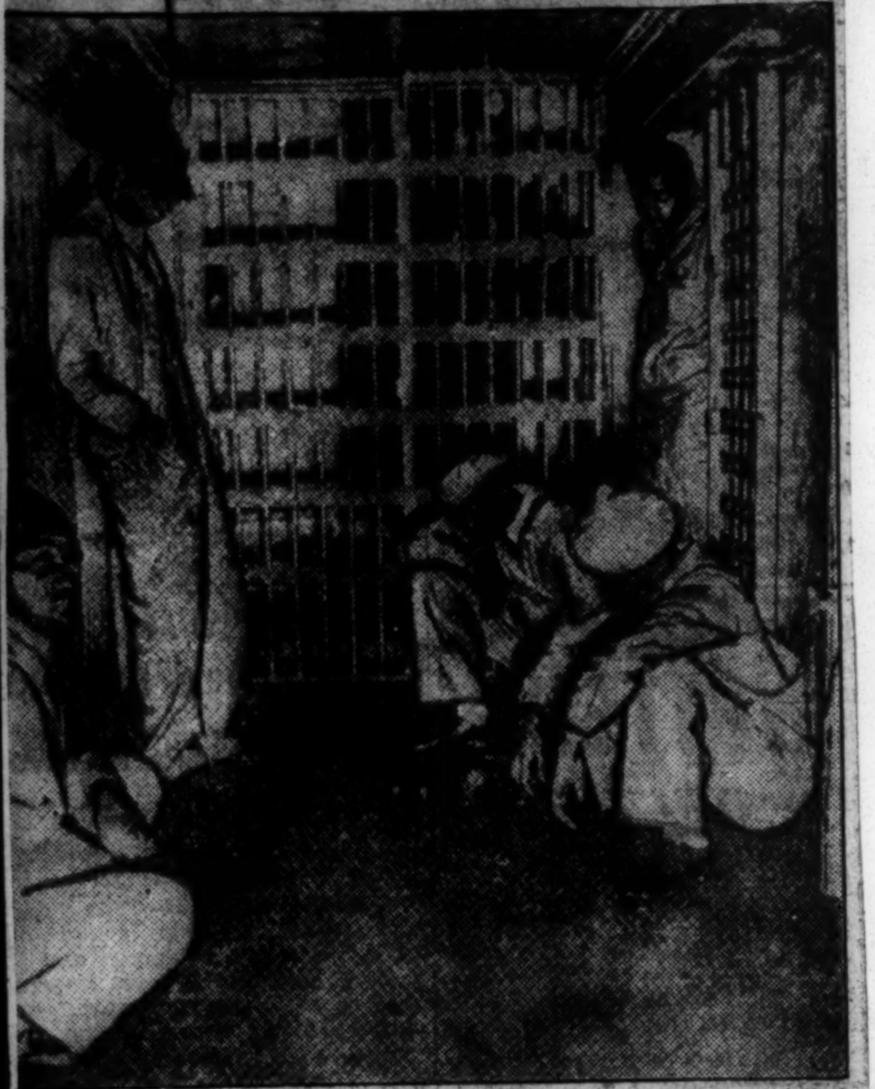
The Scottsboro Puzzle

VICTORIA PRICE in overalls five and one-half years ago, when the Scottsboro case first came to trial. She says she was raped.

HEYWOOD PATTERSON, one of the nine Scottsboro boys sentenced to 75 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit.

RUBY BATES, in store clothes, turned State's evidence and denied that the boys harmed her or Victoria.

On Their Sixth Year



Five of the nine Scottsboro boys in their prison cell in Birmingham. All nine are in their sixth year of confinement, pending final settlement of Alabama's notorious rape prosecution.

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Little Girl's Assailant Dying In Chair Tonight

Oscar Patterson, Coosa County negro, will be executed in the electric chair at Kilby Prison, soon after midnight tonight, for the criminal assault of a seven-year-old white girl. Following hearing of Patterson's petition for commutation, by Gov. Graves and members of the State Board of Pardons, the board unanimously declined to recommend clemency. Yesterday the Governor denied commutation in the case and ordered that the law take its course.

Tuesday at the conclusion of hearing of a similar petition filed by Louis Mitchell, convicted in Montgomery County of the murder of another negro man, the pardon board recommended clemency and Gov. Graves commuted Mitchell's death sentence to life imprisonment. Mitchell's execution had also been set for shortly after midnight tonight.

'Scottsboro Boys' See Earl Browder

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Sept. 12 (AP)—Earl Browder, Communist candidate for president, visited the Jefferson county jail today to talk to the Negro defendants in the celebrated "Scottsboro" case. 9-13-36

Jail Assistant Warden Jim Pinson said one of the nine Negroes, Roy Wright, refused to see Browder, saying he did not want to "get mixed up in that mess." Pinson said the other defendants talked a few minutes with the candidate.

The Negroes have been held five years, charged with attacks on two white women aboard a freight train near Scottsboro, Ala. The supreme court has considered their case twice. Trials still are pending.

Browder spoke here last night.

Communist Candidate Visits Scottsboro Nine

Advertiser

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Sept. 12.—(AP)—Earl Browder, Communist candidate for president, visited the Jefferson County jail today to talk to the negro defendants in the celebrated "Scottsboro" case.

Montgomery, Ala.

Jail Warden Jim Pinson said one of the nine negroes, Roy Wright, refused to see Browder, saying he did not want to "get mixed up in that mess." Pinson said the other defendants talked a few minutes with the candidate. 9/13/36

The negroes have been held five years, charged with attacks on two white women aboard a freight train near Scottsboro, Ala. The Supreme Court has considered their case twice. Trials still are pending.

Browder spoke here last night.

New Delay In Scottsboro Trial Seen

Daily Worker

Month's Postponement Is Expected Because of Judge's Illness

10-23-36

The trial of the nine innocent Scottsboro boys originally scheduled for Nov. 7 will be postponed for at least a month because of the critical illness of Judge W. W. Callahan, Morris Shapiro of the Scottsboro Defense Committee announced yesterday.

New York N.Y.

Callahan is suffering from angina pectoris and will be unable to preside. The trial will be called on its scheduled date, Shapiro said, but will be delayed until late in December or early in January. If Callahan does not recover by the postponed date it is expected that a new judge will be appointed to hear the case.

Meanwhile, the Scottsboro Defense Committee with the support of other progressive organizations is completing arrangements for a meeting this Sunday afternoon at 2:30 at the Abyssinian Baptist Church, corner 138th Street and Seventh Avenue.

Among the groups collaborating with the committee are the American Civil Liberties Union, the Church League for Industrial Democracy, the Methodist Federation for Social Service, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Urban League, National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners and the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

Among the speakers at the rally will be William Pickens, field secretary of the N.A.A.C.P.; Frank Crosswaith, chairman of the Negro Labor Committee; Ashley L. Totten, International Secretary-Treasurer of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; Frank D. Griffin of the I.L.D.; Dr. J. Paul Jones and the Rev. John W. Robinson.

SCOTTSBORO TRIALS MAY BE POSTPONED

Post

Case Scheduled For Monday; Judge Callahan Ill

10-28-36

DECATUR, Oct. 28.—(Special.)—Because of the illness of Circuit Judge W. W. Callahan, resumption of the Scottsboro case trials will be delayed several weeks, it appeared today.

Birmingham Ala

The trials were scheduled to be reopened next week, but Judge Callahan will not be able to resume his duties for several weeks, his friends believe.

Judge Callahan is expected to set the cases for hearing before a special court session by Jan. 1.

First to go on trial in the attack case will be Clarence Norris, who will be facing his third jury on a charge of attacking Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates aboard a freight train on March 25, 1931.

FREEING OF 4 SEEN IN SCOTSBORO CASE

Dr. Chalmers Tells the Federal Church Council Alabama Will Drop Charges.

OFFICIAL MAKES DENIAL

Times

Protestants Must 'Reorganize or Disintegrate,' Dr. Holt Warns Delegates.

12-10-36

By FRANK S. ADAMS

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ASBURY PARK, N. J., Dec. 9.—Alabama is ready to drop the prosecution of four of the nine Negroes in the Scottsboro case because of lack of evidence, the Rev. Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers, chairman of the Scottsboro Defense Committee, said here tonight in an address at a dinner of the Department of Race Relations of the Federal Council of Church of Christ in America.

New York N.Y.

Asserting that his committee "has very good assurance from sources close to the prosecution" of the readiness of Alabama to drop the cases against four of the defendants, Dr. Chalmers, who is pastor of the Broadway Tabernacle Church of New York, said that all of the defendants are now "in danger of breaking in min, dand body under the long setrain."

12-10-36

Although the defense committee is independent of the Federal council, it reported tonight on the much-discussed case at the invitation of the council for the information of leaders of the approximately 250 delegates representing twenty-three Protestant denominations with about 24,000,000 members.

The council began its biennial convention here this morning and will continue in session through Friday.

Reorganization Is Demanded

American Protestantism "must reorganize or disintegrate," Dr. Ivan Lee Holt, president of the council and pastor of St. John's Methodist Episcopal Church, South, of St. Louis, said at the opening of the meeting here this morning. He declared that "there must be a definite movement toward Protestant union" and that existing programs do not go far enough.

A distinguished inter-denominational committee of the council asserted that "the Christian church must disentangle itself" from the habits of mind of the present social order, and in particular from "the assumptions and ideals of the comfortable middle class" in a report on the state of the church presented by the Rev. Dr. Albert W. Beaven, president of the Colgate-Rochester Theological Seminary.

Acknowledging the growing pacifist sentiment of the churches, the council created a special commission to confer with Catholic and Jewish leaders and other interested persons in the preparation of a plan to modify the present status of army and navy chaplains in order to "make clear that they are a part of the regular ministry of the churches rather than of the armed service of the nation."

Marriage Education Urged

The members of the ministry were urged to support education for marriage and pre-martial physical examinations as a means of combatting domestic unhappiness and divorce, in an address by Ernest R. Groves, Professor of Sociology at the University of North Carolina. He contended that modern marriage has lost the basis in utility that it has had all through history, and that consequently the ministry must make every effort to depend and support it.

The national election proved to "discomfitted newspaper proprietors" that they must take second place in the formation of public opinion to the radio, the Rev. Dr. John W. Langdale, secretary of the Joint Commission on Religious Radio, declared in a discussion of radio preaching, at which Franklin Dunham, director of educational and religious broadcasting for the National Broadcasting Company also spoke.

The Westminster Choir of Princeton, N. J., gave a concert at the evening session, at which Dr. John Finley Williamson, its director, spoke on the place of music in enriching the service of worship, particularly in non-liturgical churches.

Dr. Chalmers, speaking before an audience that included religious leaders from all sections of the country, said that there has been a marked change in public opinion about the Scottsboro case and attributed this in large part to the activities of the Alabama defense committee of forty-nine members.

Pointing out that eight of the nine boys are still technically awaiting trial after five and a half years in prison, Dr. Chalmers said that they are kept in practical isolation in the Jefferson County jail and that they have lost all hope and are in utter despair.

"Justice must come soon or for some of them it may be too late," he said. "One of the aims of both the Northern and Southern committees, in which an informed and aroused public opinion can do great service, is to bring about a change of venue for the next trial, which will begin the first week of January."

SCOTTSBORO CASE LET-UP IS DENIED

Advertiser

Report State Will Drop Charges Against 4 Of 9 Negroes Untrue, Says Knight

12-11-36

Two State officials yesterday denied a report that charges against four of the nine negro defendants in the "Scottsboro case" would be dropped for lack of evidence.

Montgomery, Ala.

Lieut. Gov. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., special prosecutor, said "there's not a word of truth in it," when informed Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers, of New York, chairman of the Scottsboro defense committee, said his group had "very good assurance from sources close to the prosecution" that four of the cases involving alleged attacks of two white women would be dropped.

Solicitor Melvin Hutson, of Decatur, said he had "heard nothing" of the report, and no such step was contemplated.

Dr. Chalmers made the assertion Wednesday night at Asbury Park, N. J. in an address before the Department of Race Relations, Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America.

Knight said trials would be resumed at Decatur, where they were sent under change of venue from Scottsboro, as soon as he had a "breathing spell" after adjournment of the Legislature.

Knight has acted as special prosecutor in the cases more than five years, having been appointed to the post by Gov. Bibb Graves after his election as lieutenant governor. He was attorney general when the nine negroes were taken from a freight train March 25, 1931 and charged with attacks aboard the train on the white women.

Heywood Patterson, one of the defendants, is under 75-year sentence in the case. The other eight defendants await trial. Eight of the nine have been under death sentence, but State verdicts were set aside by the United States Supreme Court.

A DENIAL IN ALABAMA

Special Prosecutor Says There Is No Agreement to Drop Charges.

Times
12-10-36
New York

Lieut. Gov. Thomas E. Knight Jr., special prosecutor in the Scottsboro case, said last night at Montgomery, Ala., that there has been no agreement by the prosecution to drop any of the indictments against the nine defendants in the case.

The Lieutenant Governor made this statement by telephone after the statement of Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers at the biennial convention of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ, in Asbury Park, N.J., had been called to his attention. Mr. Knight said that he did not know where Dr. Chalmers had obtained the information on which he based the statement.

Before announcing definitely that the prosecution had not agreed to drop any of the cases Mr. Knight conferred at the State House, where he had gone to attend a session of the Alabama State Senate with Attorney General Albert A. Carmichael. The Lieutenant Governor added that his own intention was to continue with the prosecution of the Scottsboro defendants.

Samuel S. Leibowitz, who with C. L. Watts of Huntsville, Ala., heads the legal defense of the Scottsboro defendants, said at his home in Brooklyn last night that he had not been informed of any intention on the part of the prosecution to drop any of the cases. H esaid he thought that if any such move were contemplated he would have heard of it.

At the same time he pointed out that the defense has argued all along that two of the defendants were less than 16 years old at the time Victoria Price was attacked by all nine of the Negro defendants and that a third Negro was crippled and a fourth was blind. These four are Roy Wright, Olin Montgomery, Eugene Williams and Willie Robinson.

Mr. Leibowitz said that as far as he knew the trial of Ozie Powell, one of the defendants, would begin before Judge William Callahan "some time in January." It was scheduled for November but was postponed because of the illness of Judge Callahan. Heywood Patterson, another of the defendants, already has been convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. An appeal is being prepared in his case.

INSANITY THREATENING SCOTTSBORO NEGROES, LEIBOWITZ DECLARES

Constitution

12-21-36

Defense Asks Graves To Aid in Obtaining Change of Venue.

Atlanta, Ga.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—(UP)—Samuel Liebowitz, former defense attorney in the Scottsboro case, said tonight that the nine negroes were "in serious danger of going stark mad" unless they were "soor liberated from their inhuman confinement."

"To drive them to insanity would be even more horrible than to burn them in Alabama's electric chair," Leibowitz said.

The youths have been in jail for five and one-half years. Eight are awaiting retrials and one has appealed his case. The Scottsboro defense committee charged that for the last nine months they have been held in "almost solitary confinement" and are "suffering in a way they can no longer endure mentally or physically."

"We have done everything possible to interest the reputable members of the bar of Decatur, Ala., to assist in the defense of the Scottsboro boys," Leibowitz said. "While some of those solicited agreed privately, of course, that the Scottsboro boys were innocent, none would dare to represent them in court. The excuse offered was that a lawyer could not afford to get mixed up with the case and still practice law in Decatur."

The Scottsboro defense committee through its chairman, the Rev. Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers, made public a letter it sent to Governor Bibb Graves, of Alabama. The letter asked that the Governor aid in obtaining a change of venue and said:

"Intentionally or otherwise, the confinement to which the boys have been subjected for the last nine months, can have but one result; To break them down physically and mentally so that in desperation they may make a false confession. It is well known that such confinement is often as effective as a 'third degree'."

SCOTTSBORO PLEA FILED

Governor of Alabama Is Asked to Obtain Change of Venue.

12-23-36

The Scottsboro Defense Committee made public here yesterday a letter sent on Dec. 10 to Governor Bibb Graves of Alabama, asking him to obtain a change of venue for the nine Negro youths who are scheduled to go on trial for their lives again next month. He also was asked by the committee to change the present method of confining the nine defendants, it being charged that for the last nine months the Negroes had been in solitary confinement in individual cells and as a result were in danger of mental and physical collapse.

Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief counsel for the defense, announced that Dr. Smith Ely Jelliffe and Dudley L. Schoenfeld, psychiatrists, were to examine the nine boys in their cells in the Jefferson County jail. He said that after the doctors reported their findings, "we shall know how to proceed."

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

5380

Giant Negro Must Die June 19 For Murder Of Huntsville Girl

Advertiser 5-12-36

Jury Out Only 7 Minutes; Soldiers Seize Two And Deputy

Montgomery Ala.

HUNTSVILLE, ALA., May 11. — (AP) — Walter Miller, giant negro, was sentenced to death in the electric chair tonight by a jury which heard him accused of the brutal attack and slaying of pretty 19-year-old Vivian Woodward.

The jury was out but seven minutes.

Judge Paul Speake fixed Friday, June 19, as the date of execution. Miller, watched closely by the 250 national guardsmen here to prevent mob action, was convicted on the murder count.

Both murder and assault are punishable by death in Alabama.

Miller was taken immediately to Kilby Prison by a convoy of militia.

Pleading innocent, the negro took the witness stand and told the jury he signed a confession after being beaten and threatened with mob violence by a Huntsville officer in a Birmingham jail.

Confession Identified

Ben Ingram, Birmingham jail warden, identified a manuscript as the negro's signed statement that he waylaid the white girl as she walked home alone from a movie the night of March 28, dragged her behind a private garage, attacked her, mutilated her and left her dying.

Other witnesses corroborated Ingram's statement.

In a precise, determined stand against mob fervor, the national guardsmen, thrown about the courthouse with bayoneted rifles, machine guns, and tear gas, seized three men.

Two white men were arrested as instigators of a move to drive negroes from Huntsville streets.

A Birmingham deputy sheriff called as a witness in the case was seized after a flare of fists and gun butts. A guard officer later said the deputy "wisecracked" at the militia, but the deputy denied this. He was released, not seriously hurt.

Brought From Birmingham

Miller was brought here early today by four companies of militia from Birmingham where he has been held for his safety in a jail with the nine negro defendants in the widely known "Scottsboro" case.

The verdict was received without demonstration, and Miller a moment later was brought to the bar for sentence.

"Have you anything to say before sentence is pronounced on you?" inquired Judge Parks.

"Yes, sir, judge," Miller stammered. "If a man ain't guilty, he just ain't guilty."

"I hope you received a fair trial, and I believe that you did," Judge Speake replied to the negro's comment. "The jury has brought in a verdict of guilty, a verdict in which I concur, and which I am now about to carry out. Therefore, I sentence you to die Friday, June 19."

Every precaution was taken to prevent a recurrence of the mob spirit which seized a segment of this city's 12,000 population the Sunday dawn Vivian Woodward was found dying.

Guardsmen and fast State motorcycle patrolmen, summoned here by Gov. Bibb Graves, resorted to tear gas to scatter the mob and protect four negroes taken after bloodhounds followed a trail from the crime scene to their door.

The four were hurried to Birmingham, 140 miles away, and were freed when Miller was arrested at Terre Haute, Ind., and was reported to have confessed the fiendish attack and killing. The purposed confession said the negro, drinking, peeped in windows watching a white woman undress before he determined to ravish a white girl.

As the trial opened today, all persons entering the courthouse were searched by guardsmen, this resulted in an accumulation of pocket knives, but no guns were found.

Several girl employes at the courthouse did not go to work today.

Two Negroes on Panel

Two negroes were on the regular and special jury panels of 100 citizens drawn for the sensational trial, but both were stricken by attorneys as the jury of 12 was chosen. In the "Scottsboro" case, in which the negroes were accused of attacking two white girls, the United States Supreme Court reversed the Alabama courts on a defense contention negroes were excluded from jury service.

Huntsville is a neighbor city to Scottsboro, Ala., from which the world-known case took its name.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Woodward, parents of the slain girl, sat inside the court railing as the trial opened, their eyes frequently fixed on the huge negro only 10 paces away.

Miller will be tried first on the murder count. Both murder and criminal attack are punishable by death in Alabama.

Negro Brought To Kilby To Await Execution Day

Adjt. Gen. John C. Coleman was advised last night that Walter Miller, negro, convicted yesterday in the Madison Circuit Court at Huntsville of the criminal assault and murder of a young white woman, and sentenced to be executed on June 19, was already on his way from Huntsville to Kilby Prison at Montgomery, closely guarded by Alabama National Guardsmen. Transfer of the prisoner from Huntsville to Kilby was being made by motor truck, a small squadron of National Guard trucks driven and manned by a strong force of guardsmen being detailed for that special duty. The negro and those who had him in custody were expected to reach Kilby Prison early this morning.

Negro Is Indicted By Rockford Jury

Advertiser

ROCKFORD, ALA., May 29.—(Special)—A Coosa County Grand Jury today indicted Oscar Patterson, 24-year-old negro farm hand, for assault upon a seven-year-old girl whose mother pleaded with a mob one week ago to "let the law take its course."

5-30-36

Circuit Judge W. W. Wallace, of Columbiana, set June 15 as the date of trial.

Montgomery, Ala.

Sheriff Mack C. Waites said he anticipated "no trouble" but made public a notice from Gov. Graves that he would give "all necessary protection" for the transfer and trial of the negro, now held in Montgomery for safe keeping.

Sheriff Waites said he did not believe troops would be necessary to preserve order at the trial.

The negro was spirited to Montgomery while the mother pleaded with a mob at the Goodwater jail to "let the law take its course." A group of citizens and officers worked a ruse by telling the mob they were taking the man to a physician for examination. They sped to Montgomery with him, instead.

Scottsboro Protest June 7 In Washington

Daily Worker 6-1-36

Trials Are Scheduled to Open June 7 in Decatur, Ala.

New York N.Y.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 31.—A protest mass meeting in preparation for the Scottsboro trials scheduled for July 9, in Decatur, Ala., will be held here Sunday, June 7, at the Typographical Temple, 423 "G" Street, Northwest, at 8 P. M.

Speakers will include Ruby Bates, defense witness; Gardner Jackson, of the American Civil Liberties Union; George Murphy, Jr., representing the Local Scottsboro Defense Committee and Samuel Levin, local attorney of the International Labor Defense.

The meeting is sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union, the I. L. D., the Inter-Professional Association, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, American League Against War and Fascism, Local 440 of the American Federation of Teachers, and the Washington Branch of the National Scottsboro Defense Committee. Admission to the meeting will be free.

NEW DEFENSE PLAN URGED IN ATTACK CASES

Edmonds Calls On State Bar To Aid Negroes In Courts

MAY OUST LEIBOWITZ

Elimination Of Outside Representation Is Committee Goal

By United Press.

MONTGOMERY, June 10.—Efforts to replace Samuel S. Leibowitz, New York criminal lawyer, with Alabama attorneys as defense counsel in the "Scottsboro" attack cases, and formation of an independent "Alabama Scottsboro committee" to liquidate the cases were revealed today by Lieut.-Gov. Thomas E. Knight Jr., special state prosecutor of the cases.

He made public an appeal by Dr. Henry M. Edmonds, pastor of Independent Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, to the State Bar Assn. asking that organization to select two "competent Alabama attorneys" to represent the Negroes. Dr. Edmonds, in his letter to H. Files Crenshaw, of Montgomery, president of the state bar, declared:

"Many Alabama people have long desired to get [illegible] of extraneous agencies and influences in the Scottsboro affair and to have these nine Negro boys tried simply of the merits of their cases as presented by lawyers from our own state. It now looks as if the way were open."

His letter stated the Alabama committee is an association "without organic connection with any other group or organization, North or South; its interest in the case is wholly indigenous; and it is free to express that interest in any way it sees fit."

He listed as committee members: Former Gov. Thomas E. Kilby of Anniston; Dr. George H. Denny, president, and Dr. A. J. Farrah, dean of law, of the University of Alabama; Dr. W. D. Partlow of Tuscaloosa; Algernon Blair of Montgomery; Dr. E. T. Belsaw of Mobile; W. H. Tayloe of Uniontown; F. T. Raiford, Selma newspaper publisher; Harry M. Ayers Anniston newspaper publisher; James E. Mills Jr., editor of The Birmingham Post; James E. Chappell, publisher of The Birmingham News and William Mitch, Birmingham labor leader.

Other members of the committee, all from Birmingham, are Roderick Beddow, Judge W. M. Walker, W. D. Moore, Dr. Morris Newfield, Jere King, Dr. Guy E. Snavely, Harry Denman, Dr. John Alexander, Dr. A. M. Freeman, Rev. Stewart Meacham, Mrs. Jere King, F. M. M. Richardson, Mrs. Henry C. Bryant, Rev. D. F. Thompson, T. C. Windham, Bishop B. G. Shaw and Walter Jones.

Crenshaw replied that as president, he had no power to name any such attorneys, but sent copies of his exchange of letters to every member of the bar association, including Knight.

Up To Defendants

He informed Dr. Edmonds that defendants must have the right to choose their own counsel, and that such a request to the bar association must come from the defendants. He promised to submit the whole matter to the Board of Bar Commissioners.

In reply, Waits M. Taylor, of Birmingham, secretary of the committee, declared the committee "was confident the request for designation of Alabama counsel will come from the defendants themselves, after the withdrawal of Mr. Leibowitz from the case." He said the committee had nohing to do with Leibowitz's actions but had "received assurances from other sources that he will do so."

Commenting on the exchange of letters, Mr. Knight said the Negroes already had been represented by 21 lawyers, some of them from Alabama, and that numerous grand and petit juries had passed on the guilt of each defendant who has been tried.

The Negroes come up for trial at Decatur July 15 on charges of attacking Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates, young white women hoboes, on a freight train near Paint Rock, Ala., in March, 1931. Two of the nine have been convicted four times of the crime.

31 Alabamians Form Scottsboro Defense Group

Headed By Dr. Henry M. Edmonds And Number Many Prominent Names

Call On State Bar

Files Crenshaw Asked To Obtain Two Lawyers As 9 Negroes' Counsel

Under the leadership of Dr. Henry M. Edmonds, pastor of the Independent Presbyterian Church, of Birmingham, an Alabama Scottsboro committee has been formed with 31 members, many of them of Southwide prominence and has begun functioning to secure Alabama counsel for the defense of the nine negroes, who in March of 1931, by assaulting two white women, placed this State in the world's news where it has been ever since.

Formation of the committee and the progress it has made together with comment by Lieut. Gov. Thomas E. Knight, special prosecutor in the Scottsboro case, became public last night with the release of correspondence signed by Dr. Edmonds, H. Files Crenshaw, president of the Alabama Bar Association; Lieut. Gov. Knight, and others.

The correspondence disclosed that Mr Crenshaw had been requested to use his offices to secure counsel through the Bar Association. The request was predicated on reports that Samuel Leibowitz, the New York lawyer, had withdrawn from the case. A dispatch from New York, however, quoted Leibowitz as denying his severance from the nine negroes whom he has defended so far with indifferent success.

Waights M. Taylor, of Birmingham, who signed as secretary of the Alabama committee, said that group was "confident that the request for designation of Alabama counsel to assist in the defense will come from the defendants themselves after the withdrawal of Mr. Leibowitz (Samuel Leibowitz, of New York) from the case."

Taylor said, however, in a later paragraph "this committee has nothing to do with the action of Mr. Leibowitz—nor does it intend in any way to influence his action—but the committee does have assurance from other sources that his action will be that which I have mentioned."

Prominent Committee

Mr. Edmonds, pastor of the Birmingham Independent Presbyterian Church listed former Gov. Thomas E. Kilby, of Anniston; Judge W. H. Tayloe, of Uniontown; F. T. Raiford, Selma publisher; Algernon Blair, Montgomery contractor; Harry M. Ayres, Anniston publisher; Dr. E. T. Belsaw, of Mobile; Dean A. J. Farrar, of the University of Alabama Law School; Dr. W. D. Partlow, superintendent of Alabama Insane Hospitals, and Dr. George H. Denny, president of the University of Alabama, among the 31 members of the committee seeking Alabama counsel for the negroes.

Twenty-two Birmingham residents, most of them prominent, were listed as members of the committee also by Mr. Edmonds. They follow:

Forney Johnston, Roderick Beddow, James Chappell, publisher of The Birmingham News and Age Herald; James Mills, editor of The Birmingham Post; W. D. Moore, Morris Newfield, Jere King, Guy E. Snavely, president of Birmingham-Southern College; Harry Denman, John Alexander, A. M. Freeman, William Mitch, Stewart Meacham, Mrs Jere King, Bishop B. G. Shaw, F. M. M. Richardson, E. W. Taggard, Mrs. Henry C. Bryant, Walter Jones, T. C. Windham, the Rev. D. F. Thompson.

Samuel S. Leibowitz, mentioned in the correspondence, has defended the negroes practically throughout their numerous trials since they were taken from a freight train in 1931 near Scottsboro, in Jackson County, and charged with criminal assault upon Victoria Price and Ruby Bates, white women aboard the train.

Haywood Patterson, twice saved from death in the electric chair by the United States Supreme Court, was convicted and sentenced to 75 years imprisonment in February at Decatur, where the cases were moved from Jackson on a change of venue.

If general court procedure is followed, other trials in the "Scottsboro case" will come at the July term of Morgan (Decatur) Circuit Court. No official announcement has been forthcoming, however, on the trials.

Publication of the book, "Scottsboro—Firebrand of Communism," here this week revealed Roy Wright and Ozie Powell, two of the defendants, had been indicted by a Morgan grand jury on charges of assault with intent to murder Sheriff J. S. Sandlin and Deputy Edgar Blalock during their transfer to Birmingham in February.

Deputy Blalock was seriously cut on the throat and Powell was shot by Sheriff Sandlin, but recovered after pieces of a bullet were removed from his skull.

Crenshaw, father of Files Crenshaw, Jr., one of the authors of the Scottsboro book, advised the Birmingham minister and Alabama committee chairman that members of the board of commissioners of the Alabama Bar Association were being asked what action should be taken on his request to select defense counsel.

Bar to Consider Request

The association president said a meeting of the board of commissioners would be called at an early date to consider the request for appointment of Alabama attorneys in the case "if a majority of the board so indicate."

Dr. Allan Chalmers, of New York, chairman of the Scottsboro defense committee (not the Alabama group) was quoted in one of Edmonds's letters as saying that "I hope we can work together on this."

Another excerpt quoted as coming from Dr. Chalmers said: "I would like you advise on where I can help, if at all, in the approach to the Alabama Bar Association and the securing, as soon as possible, of counsel satisfactory to you and us; not only to get them properly acquainted with their responsibilities but also to start the necessary steps for keeping Mr. Leibowitz in the North for the next trials."

Criticising action taken in the "Scottsboro case" previously by ministers, Lieut-Gov. Knight said that "the defendants, to the best of my recollection, have been represented by twenty-one lawyers, part of whom were native Alabamians and the rest of the array of counsel were from the Empire State of New York."

Regarding releasing the Bar Association president's communications with him Knight wrote that "in view of the fact that the letter which was transmitted to me is more or less in its nature public, I am taking the liberty of allowing mine to be used publicly."

Other parts of Knight's letter said in part:

21 Lawyers Already

"Apparently Dr. Edmonds and Mr. Chalmers are working in unison on a committee to secure adequate representation for the defendants in the 'Scottsboro' case. The defendants, to the best of my recollection, have been represented by twenty-one lawyers, part of whom were native Alabamians and the rest of the array of counsel were from the Empire State of New York.

"If my recollection serves me correctly, 120 Grand and petit jurors have passed upon the guilt of each defendant who has been tried . . .

"I understand from the correspondence at hand enclosed in your letetr to me, that the publicity attached to the defense of the defendants was not to be given without the consent of Mr. Chalmers of New York and his committee and was to emanate from New York. The State of Alabama, through me as special prosecutor and during my tenure of office as attorney general, never sought to publicize the State's side of the case. Whatever publicity Dr. Edmonds and Mr. Chalmers of the New York committee desire to give to the defense is a matter of no consequence to me . . ."

In a letter addressed to Mr. Crenshaw, June, 3, Dr. Edmonds said:

"Many Alabama people have long desired to get rid of extraneous agencies and influences in the Scottsboro affair and to have those nine negro boys tried simply on the merits of their case as presented by lawyers from our own State. It now looks as if the way were open.

"We have been invited to form a committee and secure adequate counsel. I wrote Dr. Allan Chalmers, of New York, chairman of the Scottsboro defense committee, composed of eight groups, as follows:

Chalmers Replies

" 'To cement Alabama committee, please wire acceptance of the following points:

" 'First—This committee is definitely an association of Alabama citizens without organic connection with any other group or organization, North or South.

" 'Second—The committee's interest in the Scottsboro case is wholly indigenous, and it is free to express that interest in any way it sees fit.

" 'Third—All publicity relative to the committee, even mention of its existence, must emanate from the committee itself.

" 'Fourth—Agreement with our plan of issuing a statement over influential signatures, mentioning neither guilt nor innocence but unprejudicial trial.'

"His wire came back:

" 'Your letter forwarded to me on speaking trip. I see nothing in it we have right to disagree with. It is your committee. Some publicity is eventually inevitable. I hope we can work together on this. As we move forward, we shall find it more and more to our mutual advantage. Returning to New York next week. If you need further words in this, let me know. Cordial regards. — Allen Chalmers . . ."

The nine defendants, including Patterson, are held in Jefferson County Jail at Birmingham pending further developments in their case,.

Columbia, S. C. State
June 10, 1936

Alabama Will Organize Scottsboro Committee

Plan Revealed to Request State Bar to Name Attorneys to Represent Nine Negroes Involved in Case.

Montgomery, Ala., June 9—(AP)—Formation of an Alabama Scottsboro committee of 31 members and a request for the State Bar association to select two attorneys to represent the nine Negro defendants in the five-year-old criminal assault case were revealed here today.

Correspondence between H. Files Crenshaw, president of the Alabama Bar Association, and the Rev. Henry E. Edmonds, chairman of the Alabama Scottsboro committee, was made public by Lieut. Gov. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., special prosecutor in the case, who said "I have nothing to say as to who shall be appointed to represent the defendants."

Waights N. Taylor, of Birmingham, who signed as secretary of the Alabama committee, wrote the group was "confident the request for designation of Alabama counsel to assist in the defense will come from the defendants themselves, after the withdrawal of Mr. Leibowitz (Samuel Leibowitz of New York) from the case."

Taylor said, however, in a later paragraph "this committee has nothing to do with the action of Mr. Leibowitz—nor does it intend in any way to influence his action—but the committee does have assurance from other sources his action will be that which I have mentioned."

Doctor Edmunds, pastor of the Birmingham Independent Presyterian church, listed among the committee of 31 Alabamians, the following:

Former Governor Thomas E. Kilby of Anniston, F. T. Raiford, Selma publisher; Algernon Blair, Montgomery contractor; Harry M. Ayes, Anniston publisher; Dean A. J. Farrar of the University of Alabama law school; Dr. W. D. Partlow, superintendent of Alabama Insane hospitals, and Dr. George H. Denny, president of the University of Alabama.

Twenty-one Birmingham residents were listed as members of the committee also by Doctor Edmunds. They included:

Forney Johnson and Roderick Beddow, attorneys; James E. Chappell, president of the Birmingham News and Age-Herald; James Mills, editor of the Birmingham Post; Rabbi Morris Newfield, Dr. Guy E. Snavely, president of Birmingham-Southern college; John Alexander, William Mitch, president of the Alabama Federation of Labor, and Bishop B. G. Shaw.

Liebowitz defended the Negroes practically throughout their numerous trials since they were taken from a freight train in 1931 near Scottsboro, Ala., in Jackson county, and charged with assaulting Mrs. Victoria Prince and Ruby Bates, white women abroad the train.

Haywood Patterson, twice saved from death in the electric chair by the United States supreme court, was convicted and sentenced to 75 years imprisonment in February at Decatur, Ala., where the cases were moved from Jackson on a change of venue.

If general court procedure is followed, other trials in the case will come at the July term of Morgan (Decatur) circuit court. No offical announcement has been forthcoming, however.

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Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
June 17, 1936

CARMICHAEL TO DEFEND NEGROES

'Scottsboro' Cases Set For July 6 Have Been Moved To Nov. 2

Announcement was made Tuesday that Congressman A. H. Carmichael, Tuscumbia, has been retained as a member of defense counsel for the nine Negro defendants in the "Scottsboro case" and that trials of five or six of the defendants, which had been tentatively set to start July 6, have been postponed to start Nov. 2 in Morgan County Circuit Court at Decatur.

This announcement was made by Clarence Watts, Huntsville attorney, who served with Samuel Leibowitz, New York, as defense counsel in previous trials.

Postponement Granted

Postponement was granted, Mr. Watts said, upon request of Mr. Carmichael to permit him to study the case and to prepare defense. Mr. Watts said that five or six of the Negroes would be tried separately and that the first was scheduled for Nov. 2.

Dr. Henry M. Edmonds, Birmingham, chairman of the recently formed Alabama Scottsboro committee, said Mr. Carmichael had been approached by the committee and that the congressman, who plans to retire from Congress at the end of the present session to resume his law practice, had agreed to be a member of defense counsel "provided it is satisfactory to all concerned."

Mr. Watts, retained prior to the trial of Haywood Patterson, one of the nine defendants, will remain as defense counsel, he and Dr. Edmonds said. Patterson, sentenced to 75 years' imprisonment upon conviction early this year on a charge of attacking Mrs. Victoria Price in 1931, is being held in Jefferson County Jail here, along with the other eight defendants.

31 Members Of Group

The Alabama committee recently entered the five-year-old case with a request that the Negroes be represented by Alabama attorneys. Dr. Edmonds said Tuesday night that the New York committee has asked the Alabama group to retain Alabama attorneys.

Dr. Edmonds is pastor of the Independent Presbyterian Church and [illegible] the committee that includes leaders in business, professional and other circles in the state. There are 31 members of the Alabama committee.

Mr. Watts said Tuesday night that the trials of the five or six Negroes scheduled for November probably will be held before Judge W. W. Callahan, who was on the bench during the trial of Patterson.

IT'S THE SCOTTSBORO CASE AGAIN

Soon we will have a rehashing of the Scottsboro case. We are just about where we began. We probably will not move from where we are until three things happen:- 1st—Leibowitz resigns from the defense, 2nd—resigning from the prosecution by Lieut. Gov. Knight, 3rd—leaving the defense in the hands of men who honestly want to see justice done. The public is sold on the idea that Mr. Leibowitz is a tool in the hands of those whose only interest in the case is to make trouble. The public believes Mr. Tom Knight has had in mind riding into the governorship on the backs of the Scottsboro boys. And guilty or not guilty it has not felt that if he had nothing more to offer than that as an excuse for his actions in the case, he showed a poor form of sportsmanship and statesmanship. Cheap politics too.

It just so happens, nowadays, when any man trys to abuse the poor powerless Negro to get into public office, he becomes one of the most nauseating species in the eyes of many who think that any man big enough to hold a big job in a way that means the most for all the people, certainly is not to be trusted if he crushes some poor Negro to get into power—you see, they reason that, today, its the Negro—tomorrow it's some one else. You know—like lynching, first it was Negro, later it became just about as many whites as Negroes—they have not started lynching white women, but they will get around to it. You see, it grows and grows, like a boomerang—misses the mark throwneat, rebounds right against the thrower.

Knight and Leibowitz caused a lot of hate. Both should be out and no more of their kind allowed in the case. Gov. Graves should advise Mr. Knight to stop. The Scottsboro committees should advise Mr. Leibowitz to stand aside.

Let's have a cool, fair trial with an honest, upright prosecution and defense. Anything less than that is folly.

Pittsburgh Courier 8-1-36 Pittsburgh Pa

Scottsboro Boys Prefer Alabama Lawyers To Leibowitz, Reporter Learns On Prison Visit

Powell's Brain Affected, Davis Lee Says—Boys Express Fear That Alabama Lawyers May "Sell Them Out."

BIRMINGHAM, July 30—(By Davis Lee for ANP)—A desire to be represented by white Alabama lawyers at their next trial, and not Samuel Leibowitz, was expressed here this week by seven of the Scottsboro boys in an interview with this writer.

Heywood Patterson, who is under a 75-year sentence, showed this writer a letter from Mr. Leibowitz, in which the New York attorney stated that he is willing for white Alabama lawyers to come into the case provided they come in under him as chief counsel. He further warned Patterson about folk ill-advising him and poisoning his mind toward his present counsel.

Because of an epidemic of infantile paralysis in this section, no visitors have been allowed in the jail here where the Scottsboro boys are being held. However, this writer convinced the sheriff and warden that the publication of the facts in the case would mean much to Alabama. After examining my credentials and making sure that I was not a Communist, I was admitted.

The one Scottsboro defendant whom I wished to interview was Ozie Powell, who was shot by a deputy sheriff during the last trial at Decatur.

Powell's Brain Affected

We were ushered through several heavy iron doors into the colored hospital ward. Powell was sitting on the side of the bed apparently in misery. There were several beds in the ward. However, he was the only patient in there. A large plate of brown beans, beets, potatoes and meat was setting in front of him. He said he couldn't eat it.

The guard explained that Powell had been shot in the left side of the head and it had paralyzed his right side.

"Did you cut that deputy sheriff?" I asked pointedly.

"Yassuh," he said slowly.

"Where did you get the knife?" I continued.

Powell hesitated for a few moments, and then said, "I bought it."

It is obvious that Ozie Powell's brain has been affected as the result of that shot in the head. His entire right side is paralyzed, and while he admitted that he had only gone to school four months in his life, he does not possess the intelligence of the average five year old child.

I was then permitted to interview the other boys. They were locked on separate tiers. They were glad to see us and talked freely about the coming trials and the freedom which they ultimately hope to enjoy.

Boys Real "Sheiks"

One thing these boys have learned since being incarcerated is how to dress and "sheik" up. Roy Wright came to the cell door attired in white and brown sport shoes, sport plaid trousers, clean starch collared white shirt and tie. Heywood Patterson was similarly attired other than he wore black and white shoes.

Each boy expressed the desire to be represented by Alabama lawyers, but expressed doubt as to their being able to get an Alabama advocate who would not "sell them out."

"Those boys would have been free today is they'd bargained with the judge for a life stentence and went on to the chain gang. They've been in prison five years, and that's about all they would have served on a life stentence," a deputy sheriff said.

"Three Strikes Agin 'Em"

"They made the biggest mistake of their life by going up in that country town with a New York lawyer who is a Jew," he continued. "Why hell, they had three strikes against them when they got up there."

Asked about the food and recreation given them, he said, "There ain't another jail in these United States that feeds as good as we do here. About the recreation we turn them into sun rooms every day," he said.

Well, We Fixed Them

"Those devils were pretty mean when they first came here," he continued. "They tore up everything, threw filth out on the tiers. We put them in solitary and did everything to stop them, but them niggers just raised hell. Well, we fixed them, and now we don't know they're here."

I tried to ascertain how they 'fixed them,' but the deputy would not say.

He then discussed the mail and money they receive. "Those rascals receive a great bulk of mail every day from people all over the country, and get about $15 a week. It's a shame cause they just send out and buy ice cream with it."

Just as I was leaving the warden sent me a note saying if I did not send him a copy of the paper carrying this story we would send after me.

After leaving the prison I learned that a movement is afoot by the leading colored and white citizens of Alabama to bring about the release of those boys. Dr. Taggart, one of the leading colored dentists here, is representing the N. A. A. C. P., and has succeeded in getting many outstanding white men to join with them. It is reported that former Governor Bilby of Alabama has volunteered his services, and that the editors of the leading white dailies have joined with this group to see that the ends of justice are carried out.

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Legal Punishment for Rape.

SCOTTSBORO CASE AGAIN STIRS STATE

Times

Stabbing of Deputy Arouses Hostility as Alabama Opinion Defends Shooting of Negro.

2-2-36

By JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES 2D

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 31.—The wounds of Deputy Sheriff Edgar Blalock seem to prove, in the judgment of most Alabamians, that there is nothing to the inevitable suspicion from outside that the shooting of Ozie Powell last Friday by Sheriff J. Street Sanderlin was a "put-up job."

Even those Alabama newspapers and individuals who believe the Negroes in the Scottsboro case may be innocent of the charges against them have accepted evidence that there really was an attack on the officers and that the latter exercised a proper self-control.

As for the effect of the shooting upon the future trials, there are two opinions.

One is that new hostility has been created against the defendants that might be reflected in the attitude of any Morgan County jury.

The other view is that even though the case has been complicated badly by Powell's attack upon the officers, this might be offset by the withdrawal of Samuel S. Leibowitz as defense counsel. The feeling in Morgan County against Mr. Leibowitz is very sharp, and gets a part of its animus from the statement a New York paper quoted him as making in New York after the first Decatur trials in which he reputedly described the jurors as "bigots."

Some Headway Made.

The fact that the verdict entered against Haywood Patterson last fortnight was for a seventy-five-year prison term rather than a death penalty had seemed to indicate that a Morgan County jury had at last found something to be said for the defense and that a little headway had been made against the prejudices brought into the case.

Before the stabbing and shooting of last Friday it was being predicted here that the next defendant to be tried would have a still more improved treatment. Both newspaper men and attorneys had commented upon the better feeling that had prevailed among all parties at the last trial.

NEW YORK TIMES

JAN 26 1936

Scottsboro Verdict

Four times Haywood Patterson, one of the nine Negroes accused of assaulting two white women in March 1931, has been convicted of that crime which in Alabama carries capital punishment.

From the first death sentence, imposed after a brief trial in Scottsboro he was saved by a ruling of the Supreme Court of the United States that the defendants had been deprived of their right to be defended by "adequate" counsel. After that the case became a "cause célèbre," and adequate counsel were provided by the International Labor Defense, which charged that the prosecution's case had been trumped up as a means of keeping Negroes terrorized.

The second conviction, in June, 1933, at Decatur, was set aside by Judge Horton as against the weight of evidence. He ordered a third trial, which again resulted in conviction; this was reversed by another order from the Supeme Court, because Negroes had been excluded from the jury rolls.

Patterson's fourth trial was held last week in Decatur. A number of Negroes were on the panel, but none got on the trial jury. The jury heard the old evidence for two days, then brought in a verdict of guilty and fixed the punishment at seventy-five years in prison.

Victoria Price, the complaining witness, was dissatisfied with the mildness of the verdict. "'Twa'n't fair," she said. Patterson said, "I'd rather die than spend another day in jail for something I didn't do."

The defense may appeal, charging that Judge Callahan influenced the jury by an irritable and impatient attitude, and by ruling out proper evidence. The judge postponed the new trials of three of Patterson's co-defendants.

As Patterson and the others were being taken back to prison in Birmingham after the pronouncement of sentence on Friday, trouble occurred. Twenty miles from Decatur Ozie Powell, who was handcuffed to two other prisoners riding in an automobile apart from Patterson, attacked a deputy sheriff with a knife, according to the account given out by the authorities. He was shot in the brain.

Scottsboro, Ala., Age
January 30, 1936

The violent attempt to take the life of an officer by one of the so-called Scottsboro negroes will doubtless have the effect of dissolusionizing some of their ardent friends who have been led to believe they were "Innocent Lads." They turned on the ones that were trying to defend and protect them against any mob violence. Governor Graves has demonstrated that the state of Alabama did not desire to mistreat any prisoner regardless of the color or the crime and has insisted the negro be given expert medical attention. Our people are humane. They are not negro haters as they are pictured. The law abiding negro finds his best friends in the South. We have been patient and indulgent to the extreme.

BUFFALO, N. Y.
COURIER EXPRESS

JAN 25 1936

SCOTTSBORO AGAIN

Haywood Patterson, the Alabama Negro, has been found guilty for the fourth time in the Scottsboro case. Patterson has been described as the "key defendant" in the Scottsboro prosecutions and there will be a disposition to regard the outcome of his fourth trial as indicative of what his fellow-defendants may expect—although it is not always safe to take one jury's verdict as a forecast of what another jury may conclude from the same evidence.

This fourth jury in Decatur, Ala. gave an interesting illustration of the futility of trying to guess just what "twelve good men and true" may produce in the way of a verdict. Like its three predecessors, the jury convicted Patterson of assaulting a white woman—an offense punishable by death under Alabama law. The jurors availed themselves of their prerogative of fixing a lesser penalty, however, and Patterson was condemned to 75 years in prison—a living death.

Except for the penalty, the fourth trial of Patterson simply repeated the history of his three previous trials. The jury accepted as conclusive the testimony of Victoria Price, the woman who accused the Negroes of attacking her. Judge Horton, capable and courageous Alabama jurist, set aside one of the earlier Scottsboro case verdicts because he regarded Mrs. Price's unsupported testimony insufficient for conviction under a well-established tenet of the law—and also because he regarded her as lacking credibility as a witness.

Judge Horton made that ruling, not on appeal, but after return of the verdict in a trial over which he, himself, presided. There seems no prospect that this earlier trial judge's example will be followed by Judge Callahan, who presided over Patterson's fourth trial. Dispatches from Decatur indicate, indeed, that defense counsel will use some of Judge Callahan's rulings and comments from the bench as basis for an appeal which again may carry the Scottsboro case to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Incidentally, it is interesting to recall that the Supreme Court snatched the Scottsboro defendants from the death chair before the retrial over which Judge Horton presided so fairly and courageously. In a memorable decision written by Justice Sutherland (the same Sutherland often described as an arch-reactionary), all "nine old men" concurred. The court then decided that even ragged, illiterate young Negro itinerants had certain inalienable rights as American citizens—rights which could not be set aside by popular clamor.

On appeal from a later trial and conviction, the Supreme Court again saved the Scottsboro Negroes' lives. In this second decision, the court held that the defendants' rights had been impaired by exclusion of Negroes from jury panels. Now, by the clearly expressed will of the people of Alabama, Negroes long had been excluded from juries; so this second decision was even a plainer case of "judicial tyranny" than the first. There seems possibility that the Scottsboro case will give the Supreme Court still another opportunity to impose its old-fashioned notions of due process of law, regardless of what the public wants.

ROME, N. Y.
SENTINEL

JAN 22 1936

No Negroes on Trial Jury

When the case of Heywood Patterson last went up to the Supreme Court of the United States, the conviction of this one of the celebrated Scottsboro defendants was reversed on the ground that Negroes were "systematically" excluded from Alabama juries. Whereupon a single Negro was admitted to the grand jury which freshly indicted the nine young Negroes, and twelve of the same race were drawn in the panel of 100 for the trial of Patterson. Now that this is fully under way, it is observed that not a Negro is left in the box. Thus there would seem to lie grounds for a fresh appeal to Washington.

This practice of calling Negroes for jury work and then quietly excluding them through challenges by the white lawyers, is said to have been followed for a long time in parts of the South where the ostracism of Negroes has not been as pronounced as in Alabama. It would seem a most difficult condition to overcome from Washington. Here in the North our lawyers have the right to make certain challenges without cause and exercise the privilege constantly. Until very recent years there have not been enough Negroes in the population to make it reasonable that many should be drawn for the courts; yet should there be one or two in the jury box, challenges of those of dark skin could hardly be accepted as based on race prejudice. In Alabama, where two of each five inhabitants are black, the situation is markedly different. It would seem to be quite logical to require that every jury—or every one trying a Negro—should be composed of, say, five Negroes and seven whites. Yet it is unlikely Alabama would enact such a re quirement, and Congress would seem to have no control over the matter as the federal constitution now obtains.

BALTIMORE, MD.
MORNING SUN
JAN 26 1936

NEW SCOTTSBORO DOUBTS

It is difficult to believe that any one who has read the dispatches from Birmingham has obtained any clear idea of what happened in the automobile that was carrying three of the defendants in the notorious Scottsboro case back to the Birmingham jail from Decatur, where the trial was held. What is worse, it seems unlikely that clarification will be forthcoming, although the incident obviously demands thorough investigation. For, as it stands, the official account alone, without the contradictions of the prisoners to disturb it, is so vague, so confused and so insufficient that it awakens anew grave doubts in a case already distinguished by the questions it has raised.

All that is certain is that a deputy sheriff of the name of Blalock was wounded with a knife and that his injury is not serious, and that one of the nine Negro defendants was then shot in the head. He is given, it is said, an even chance to live. One wants to know how it happened that any of the Negroes, in custody for nearly five years, was in possession of a knife. If one of them was armed there was a singular lack of vigilance on the part of the authorities. One also asks if it is reasonable to suppose that after all this time, without show of violence, the Negroes would attempt a break at the moment when another effort to save their lives is under way.

From the beginning the Scottsboro case has been surrounded with prejudice and has caused high feeling in a region which has none too good a record for respecting the rights of accused Negroes, and which has too often had recourse to lynching. Naturally, therefore, the current accounts of the shooting are likely to lead many to suspect that this latest incident was a variation on the familiar theme of "shot while attempting to escape." That suspicion may be unjustified. It can be dispelled only by rigorous investigation into all the circumstances.

Kinston, N. C., Free Press
February 1, 1936

Alabama Cautious

PROTESTS against the shooting of a "Scottsboro boy" who attacked his guards with a knife have poured into the office of the Governor of Alabama. He is used to protests in the Scottsboro case. The Scottsboro Negroes are charged with criminally assaulting a woman hobo in a freight car. For several years the State has been trying to electrocute them. Condemnation has been heaped on the State by organizations and individuals making all manner of charges. There are persons out of the South who believe the average execution of a Negro in a Southern state is as apt to be a fruit of race prejudice as an act of justice. There are some who cannot understand why criminal assault should be a capital offense, even in the South. And there are some, of course, who are plain, unvarnished fools.

The State of Alabama doesn't put Negroes to death simply because they are Negroes. Its courts are as intelligent and fair as those of any other state. The State has been careful in this business. The indictment of a flock of colored youths on rape charges stirred up so much concern, then bitter animosity kept alive by propagandizing agencies, that the officials and courts would take no chance. They wanted blind justice to make no mistake. On the other hand, they have steeled themselves to duty. Whatever penalty the Scottsboro boys are finally ordered to pay, the sovereign state of Alabama will impose as certainly as the sun rises.

Alabama is going to carry out the law in the case, a law the State regards as necessary for the welfare of its people, and distant public sentiment, which cannot understand how Alabama feels in such matters has nothing to do with the matter.

LOWELL, MASS.
EVENING LEADER
Citizen
JAN 23 1936

SCOTTSBORO AGAIN.

Once more the Scottsboro case is on trial, after two reversals by the United States Supreme Court of convictions of one or more of the accused Negroes in the Alabama courts. Presumably the state authorities and the presiding judge are endeavoring to comply with the constitutional provisions safeguarding the life and liberty of citizens, but there is a limit to what can be done in the way of thwarting a determinedly prejudiced jury.

It has been alleged that the intervention of Communist organizations has caused a bias against the defense from the first. To this the Communists reply that if it had not been for their activities the youths would probably have been executed long ago. As a matter of fact, however, not all the outside interference has been helpful. At best rural juries are just a bit inclined to resent the appearance of "furrin" attorneys; and northern lawyers imported for the trial of a case affecting Negroes and their civil rights are anything but welcome.

At any rate one may suspect that the issue in the minds of jurors selected from the locality has become one between the northern and the southern view of the Negro, and also of the preservation of the right of Alabama to administer justice in her own way. But even without this motivation, it is doubtful that these young men would ever have been acquitted. Carl Carmer in his "Stars Fell On Alabama" devotes a few pages to discussion of the case. In the light of the comment which he heard from the white people of the vicinity, he seems to be sure that the defendants will never receive evenhanded justice. Their only hope, therefore, appears to be in appeals to the federal power. But it is hardly likely that these can be continued indefinitely without at last meeting a rebuff. The Supreme Court can see to it that no obvious device is used for depriving Negroes of their equal rights; but it is not easy to demonstrate a prejudice, unexpressed on the record, but which every one knows to exist. The jury has the final say—and where is one to find an impartial jury in the hill country of Alabama?

Asks Inquiry On Shooting Of Ozie Powell

Daily Worker

Three Points Stressed To Save Lives of Nine Defendants

2-6-36

A program of specific protest action to save the Scottsboro boys, based on the most recent events in the case, the shooting of Ozie Powell and the conviction of Haywood Patterson, was outlined by the Scottsboro Defense Committee.

New York

The International Labor Defense yesterday, through Miss Ann Damon, acting national secretary, simultaneously announced that it had called on all its branches and affiliated organizations to take the most immediate and energetic action to develop the broadest protest movement along the lines of the program outlined by the committee.

Formation of local Scottsboro committees, on a united front basis, consisting of the local organizations of members and sponsors of the Scottsboro Defense Committees, together with local trade unions churches, and other organizations for the purpose of developing the protest movement and support to the committee, has been placed on the first order of business by all International Labor Defense branches and affiliates, by the National Executive Committee of the organization, Miss Damon said.

Ask Mass Defense

The complete statement of the Scottsboro Defense Committee follows:

"'The Scottsboro Defense Committee urges all affiliated organizations, all groups interested in the Scottsboro case and all others individually to take promptly the following action in support of the defense:

"1. Urge upon Governor Bibb Graves, Montgomery, Ala., the release by pardon of Haywood Patterson, convicted for the fourth time and sentenced to 75 years in prison. Patterson's innocence of the charge of rape was conclusively proved by the decision of Judge James E. Horton in granting him a new trial in 1933. Haywood Patterson's repeated convictions are due to prejudice inherent in a charge, however false, of a white woman against a black man. Further, the conduct of Patterson's last trial by Judge Callahan was wholly unfair to the defense and was marked by prejudice and denial of the defendant's rights.

"2. Urge the dismissal of the remaining indictments for rape against the other Scottsboro boys on the same ground as the above. Address Lt. Governor Thomas E. Knight, Montgomery, Ala., who is the special prosecutor of the boys.

Investigation of Shooting

"3. Urge upon Governor Bibb Graves, Montgomery, Ala., a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding the shooting of Ozie Powell, one of the Scottsboro boys, by Sheriff J. Street Sandlin of Morgan County, in an automobile in which he was being conveyed from Decatur to Birmingham on Jan. 24. Make it plain that the official explanation made by the sheriff and others of an attempt to escape is wholly unconvincing and at variance with the accounts given by the boys to their attorneys. Only a thorough impartial investigation by persons whose fairness can be trusted will be convincing.

"Adopt your own resolutions covering the points above and send your comments by mail or telegraph to the officials named.

"We strongly advise concentrating on these resolutions at this time and not complicating the situation by any other form of action save support of the defense."

The organizations forming the Scottsboro Defense Committee are: the International Labor Defense, National Association for Advancement of Colored People, League for Industrial Democracy, American Civil Liberties League, the Church League for Industrial Democracy, and the Methodist Federation for Social Service.

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Alabama

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Scottsboro Case Knife-Wielder Is Shot By Sheriff

Ozie Powell Stabs Deputy In Throat And Receives Bullet In Head In Car

Automobile Battle

Officer's Cuts Not Serious; 50 Soldiers On Duty At Hospital In Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Jan. 24.—(AP)—A new and sensational chapter in the five-year-old "Scottsboro case" was written today as two of the negroes attacked officers with knives as they were being brought to jail here.

One of the pair, Ozie Powell, was in serious condition in County Hospital here, and one of the officers, Deputy Sheriff Edgar Blalock, was cut on the neck. The officer's wound was treated at a Cullman, Ala., hospital and he was allowed to go home.

Fifty national guardsmen were ordered to "stand by" by Adjt. Gen. John C. Coleman, sent here by Gov. Bibb Graves to "survey the situation." Coleman first ordered the men to patrol the hospital area, but changed his instructions a few minutes later.

Powell was shot in the head by Sheriff J. Street Sandlin, of Morgan County, who sat beside Blalock at the time of the attack. Dr. W. S. Littlejohn, brain surgeon, removed the bullet, in two portions, tonight.

Bullet Enters Brain

The surgeon said the bullet entered Powell's head at the hairline on the forehead, ranged backward and downward and passed through a small section of the brain, bringing partial paralysis of the right side.

Powell's chances for recovery were described as "good" after the operation. His pulse was 92, against a normal of 72.

Roy Wright, the other negro involved in the attack, was not hurt and was placed in Jefferson County Jail here with the seven other defendants.

Sheriff Sandlin placed the scene of the attack, which came as the officers were speeding toward Birmingham with their prisoners, at Lacon, Ala., just inside the Morgan County line, and approximately 70 miles north of Birmingham.

Powell, Wright and a third defendant, Clarence Norris, were handcuffed together in the back of the automobile. Norris took no part in the fight and was not wounded.

A jury for his trial was completed yesterday, but the case was posponed by Judge W. W. Callahan, at Decatur, because of the illness of a defense witness.

From his cot in the hospital, Powell told newspapermen and Deputy Sheriff Taylor he bought the knife in Decatur "for 30 cents from a delivery boy named Ernest."

Decatur authorities were investigating this possibility.

Talyor quoted Powell as confessing the attack, which came approximately 70 miles north of Birmingham, and saying he "did it because I heard Deputy Blalock and another white man say they was going to kill us."

Handcuffed in trios, the nine negroes left Decatur shortly after 1 p.m., for the cells in county jail, here where they have been most of the time since their arrest March 25, 1931, for alleged mass attacks on Victoria Price and Ruby Bates aboard a freight train in Jackson County.

The second car held Sheriff Sandlin, Deputy Blalock and the three negroes, Wright, Norris and Powell.

Wright Pulls Knife

"Wright pulled a knife on me and Powell cut at Blalock just as we passed Lacon," Sheriff Sandlin said. "I grappled with Wright, and then I saw Blalock was cut, and Powell was trying to get his pistol.

"I dropped him (Powell) as he reached for the gun."

Other officers ran up from the other cars in the caravan and Powell and Blalock were taken to the Cullman hospital, Powell being brought rapidly to Birmingham from there after his wound had been dressed.

First examination of his wound at county jail and at the hospital did not show the bullet wound, and his condition was not believed serious until the X-ray examination.

A guard of six officers, two each from State Patrol, city police and sheriff's forces, was on duty at the hospital where Powell lay.

Precautions were also taken at the county jail, on the eighth floor of the courthouse, where the other eight negroes were placed.

Powell was suffering from "extreme shock" as well as the bullet wound, hospital authorities said. He shuddered frequently as newspapermen discussed the battle in the automobile with him.

The negro said he bought the knife "three days ago." Asked if the other "Scottsboro" negroes were armed when they left Decatur, Powell shook his head.

"You mean they were not, or that you don't know?" he was asked.

"I don't know about them."

Powell said he had not been searched either in the jail at Decatur or before leaving there for Birmingham.

Gov. Graves called the hospital to order "everything possible" done for Powell there. He was told Powell's condition was not serious, but discovery of the bullet came within a few minutes.

Deputy's Version

At Cullman, Deputy Blalock said Powell attacked him without uttering a word, as they neared the boundary between Morgan and Cullman Counties.

"All of a sudden Powell stabbed me in the neck," Blalock said. "Then there was some shooting, and some of the shots seemed to hit Powell.

"I was hurt and Lieut. Gov. Knight's car brought me to the hospital."

Lieut. Gov. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., special prosecutor for the State, and other members of the prosecution staff, were in a car behind the one in which the fight occurred.

In the first car were three Scottsboro negroes, Eugene Williams, Andy Wright and Olen Montgomery, with Capt. V. B. Gilbert, of the State Highway Patrol in charge. The third car contained Heywood Patterson, convicted and sentenced to 75 years in the penitentiary yesterday, Willie Roberson and Charlie Weems, and two officers.

The weapons allegedly used by Roy Wright and Powell were small, swivel-bladed pocket knives, such as may be purchased at any hardware store.

No charges have been made against either Powell or Roy Wright. Since the attack occurred in Morgan County, any cases against them would be tried in the same circuit court where all the "Scottsboro" cases were sent on change of venue from Jackson County.

Twice the U. S. Supreme Court has reversed death sentences in the "Scottsboro case," once on the ground that the negroes were without benefit of adequate counsel in the first trials at Scottsboro, and once in ruling that "the defendants were deprived of constitutional rights because negroes were "systematically excluded" from grand and trial juries.

Judge James E. Horton, since defeated for reelection, set aside one death verdict against Patterson, holding the evidence not sufficient to warrant the penalty.

Sheriff Sandlin, just before he began a return trip to Decatur, said "the thing I am proudest of is that none of these Scottsboro boys was killed."

"I don't know how I stopped that car, without leaving the road," he said. "I remember putting my foot on the brake, but I took my hands off the steering wheel when I looked in the mirror and saw Powell cutting Blalock.

"I pulled Wright down on the back of the front seat, and pressed the siren to signal the other officers to come to our help. Somehow, the car stopped and State Patrolman J. T. Bryant came up, and the negroes were subdued.

"Powell was 'out cold' for about 40 minutes, but he came to before we got to Birmingham."

Shortly after his arrival here, Sandlin telephoned the hospital at Cullman and was relieved to learn that Blalock had been released.

"This afternoon's fight was the first bad move any of the Scottsboro negroes has made while in my jurisdiction," he said.

Knight Gives Version Of Negro's Attack On Deputy

Lieut.-Gov. Knight, special prosecutor in the Scottsboro cases, last night returned to Montgomery after seeing the nine negro defendants safely into Birmingham, eight to jail and one to a hospital.

"I was returning from Decatur with Buster Lawson (Asst. Atty. Gen. T. S. Lawson) and Circuit Solicitor H. G. Bailey when we were flagged down by a highway patrolman. One of the negroes, Ozie Powell, had stabbed a deputy.

"I sent the wounded officer to Cullman in my car for hospital attention and we rushed the prisoners to Birmingham. Deputy Blalock's wound looked pretty serious then. He was suffering from loss of blood.

"We wasted no time, after the deputy was on his way to a hospital, in getting the three cars of negro defendants over the remaining 70 miles to Birmingham—and we got them all there alive."

Governor Sends Adjutant General To Birmingham

By direction of Gov. Graves, Adjt. Gen. John C. Coleman left late yesterday afternoon for Birmingham to observe conditions there following arrival at the Jefferson County jail of the Scottsboro case negro prisoners, two of whom attacked officers while they were being transferred to Birmingham from Decatur where trial of the cases has been underway this week. Gen. Coleman conferred with commanding officers of National Guard units in Birmingham.

The Governor, who is still suffering from the cold contracted while on a weekend visit to the Gulf shore, was at his office throughout the forenoon, but had not intended to return yesterday afternoon. Informed of the attack on the officers, however, he hurried to his office at the Capitol. Arriving there he immediately directed Chief Walter K. McAdory, of the State Highway Patrol, to dispatch Capt. Potter Smith to the scene to make a complete investigation and keep him advised of developments.

He also directed that a detail of six patrol officers be placed on duty in the hospital ward in Birmingham where the injured negro, Ozie Powell, was taken for treatment; and that Sheriff Fred McDuff, of Jefferson County, be requested to take like action.

Orders were given that no less than two of the State officers should remain in the hospital ward continuously and request was made by the Governor in a long distance telephone conversation with doctors at the hospital that Powell be given every attention. He assured them he would see to it that all bills were paid. Just prior to the conversation he had received word that the officer attacked was not seriously hurt and had expressed his great satisfaction that he was not.

Eastern Radicals Criticize 'Prejudice' Of Officers

NEW YORK, Jan. 24.—(AP)—Norman Thomas, socialist and liberal leader, tonight assailed what he termed the "passion, prejudice and incompetence" of Alabama officers who reported today that Scottsboro trial defendants attacked them during a transfer from Decatur, Ala., to Birmingham.

Thomas said:

"Fragmentary reports of the serious clubbing of Ozie Powell, Scottsboro defendant, by one of the police who was escorting him to jail would indicate that the police in this case had a large share of the passion, prejudice and incompetence displayed . . . in the Patterson trial.

"At the very least, the police were extremely inefficient if they gave a prisoner a chance to stab one of them.

"About the whole story is a suggestion that Alabama is trying out its own version of the old Spanish or Mexican 'ley de fuga.'"

Michael Walsh, district secretary of the International Labor Defense, said:

"Our attorneys at the outset demanded a change of venue to some other place in Alabama. They stated that it was impossible to get a fair trial in Decatur and that a danger existed because of the lynch spirit that had developed in the community. This seems to bear out that statement."

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
January 26, 1936

Scottsboro Negro Convicted.

FOUR TIMES Heywood Patterson, one of nine negro defendants in the famous Scottsboro case, was tried for his life. Three times he was convicted and sentenced to be electrocuted. Three times he and other defendants were granted new trials. His fourth trial was completed last Wednesday. Thursday an Alabama jury found him guilty of an attack on Mrs. Victoria Price, a white woman, aboard a freight train on March 25, 1931, and he was sentenced to 75 years in prison.

Samuel S. Leibowitz of New York, chief defense counsel, who took the case of the Scottsboro negroes to the Supreme Court the United States and won a ne trial for them on the ground th the jury had not been drawn fro a venire which contained th names of negroes, announced h would appeal. "I had rather di than spend another day in jail fo something I didn't do," Leibowit quoted Patterson as having said.

Clarence Norris, the second defendant in the case, went on tria Friday, and the cases of Charli Weems and Andy Wright have been set for this week.

Mrs. Price testified in the four original trials in Scottsboro in April 1931 and has testified in the four trials at Decatur, where Patterson was convicted and sentenced by the jury in its verdict Thursday. Her companion on the hobo trip, when she charges she was attacked by a group of negroes, was Ruby Bates who appeared in the first trial at Decatur after a change of venue from Jackson county and repudiated her former testimony. In that trial she said she was not attacked.

Norman Thomas, one time Socialist candidate for President, said, when informed of the verdict against Patterson, that it "is still a decision growing out of popular hysteria. It is better than death," he added, "because it gives us more time to work o the defense. It was not supporte evidence."

LEIBOWITZ BLAMED BY NEGRO'S MOTHER

Josephine Powell Wants A New Lawyer For Ozie, Shot By Deputy

Advertiser

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Jan. 29—(AP)—A Jefferson County deputy sheriff today quoted the mother of Ozie Powell, wounded Scottsboro defendant, as desiring new counsel, which brought from Samuel S. Leibowitz of New York, chief of defense counsel, an answer of "nonsense."

1-30-36

The deputy sheriff, Dewitt Truss, said the negro's mother, Josephine Powell, had declared after a visit to her son that he blamed the New York attorney with his present condition and that she would seek to retain an Atlanta lawyer.

In New York, Leibowitz said, "naturally officials down there are trying to make it a family squabble. There's about as much truth to the report as there was to the confession they tried to put into the delirious boy's mouth a day or so ago. . . . It's nonsense."

After a visit to her son and returning to the sheriff's office, Deputy Truss said the woman told him, "I believe my boy is telling the truth, and I want another lawyer, just as he does. Ozie told me he blames Mr. Leibowitz for the condition he is in now."

Deputy Truss said the woman had visited her son in the county hospital previous to her statement to him and Deputy Sheriff Clarence Boggan at the court house, and reiterated a previous printed report that Powell said he slashed a deputy's throat under a threat of his life by other defendants.

The negro's mother said on her return to Atlanta today she would seek the services of another attorney for her son who is one of nine defendants in the Scottsboro case charged with attacking Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates aboard a freight train in Jackson County March 25, 1931.

Powell was wounded last Friday near Lacon after slashing the throat of Deputy Sheriff Edgar Blalock, of Morgan County, who with Sheriff J. Street Sandlin was returning Roy Wright, Clarence Norris and Powell to Birmingham, after postponement of further trials in Decatur.

The postponement was ordered by Judge W. W. Callahan because of illness of a defense witness and refusal of the state to agree to a "showing" or deposition for the witness, Dr. R. R. Bridges, of Scottsboro, who examined Mrs. Price and the Bates girl, after the alleged attacks.

The day before the postponement, Heywood Patterson, one of the nine defendants, had been convicted by a jury of attacking Mrs. Price and sentenced to 75 years imprisonment.

Leibowitz and Clarence L. Watts, of Huntsville, Ala., attorneys for the negroes, returned here on receipt of word of Powell's attack on Blalock to investigate.

The attorneys issued a lengthy statement of their investigation, in which Roy Wright denied implication in the attack or that he had a knife as charged by Sheriff Sandlin and Blalock, and said Powell was delirious and unable to make a coherent statement.

Both Blalock and Sandlin charged Wright and Powell attempted to kill them.

The attacks occurred in the middle car of the caravan returning the negroes here for safekeeping after the postponement.

Scottsboro Case Is Given To Jury

Montgomery Ala

Montgomery Advertiser 1-23-36

State Asks Electric Chair And Defense Acquittal In Negro Attack Trial

DECATUR, ALA., Jan. 22.—(AP)—For the fourth time within five years, a jury tonight received the case of Heywood Patterson, first of nine negro defendants in the Scottsboro case to face retrial on charges of attacking Mrs. Victoria Price.

The jury was sent to a hotel immediately after receiving the case and will not begin deliberations until 1:30 tomorrow morning.

The case was given to a Morgan County jury at 9:30 o'clock tonight, after a charge from Judge W. W. Callahan that with special charges submitted by the defense that took approximately two hours.

Clarence L. Watts, of Huntsville, defense counsel, entered exceptions to explanations of the special defense charges made by Judge Callahan, also to his having charged the jury on conspiracy.

Judge Callahan told the jury three verdicts were possible, one of acquittal and two of guilty, one with the death sentence and the other with a penitentiary term ranging from 10 years to life.

"This is not a lawsuit between Victoria Price and Heywood Patterson," Judge Callahan said. "Victoria Price is merely a witness in this suit."

Evidence Discussed

The Judge went at length into the law covering the case and weighing the evidence of various witnesses. He also explained corroboration of the law covering an attack by a male on a female the Judge said applied in all cases with equal force whether the victim be from a mansion and of culture and refinement, or that she be of the lowest level in society.

Two of the principal charges submitted by the defense, both of which were denied by Judge Callahan, asked for reduction of the charges to simple assault and battery.

Another charge submitted by the defense instructed the jury to dismiss all of Mrs. Price's testimony if, in the jury's opinion, it was contradictory.

Patterson, one of nine negroes charged with attacking Mrs. Victoria Price, aboard a freight train, in Jackson County, March 25, 1931, sat behind his counsel and watched intently as the attorneys argued before the jury.

Solicitor Melvin Hutson opened the State's argument and denounced an attack on a woman by a man as "the most despicable crime of the human race."

The solicitor spoke for nearly an hour and declared the State had made a clean case against Patterson. He urged the jury not to "quibble" when it retired but write a "quick verdict," and "let's get it over with."

Clarence Watts, of Huntsville, in opening for the defense, told the jury, "I am your friend and neighbor. I have never stood before a jury and defended a man believed guilty of an attack.

"I was convinced of the innocence of this man before I ever consented to come into the case."

Knight Closes For State

Lieut. Gov. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., special prosecutor, closed for the State with a delineation of the evidence of which he told the jury there was "only one verdict—conviction."

Speaking in conversational tone, the Lieutenant Governor went over both State and defense testimony, arguing to the jury that a conviction must be had unless all state witnesses were disregarded.

Defense Moves Rapidly

The defense completed its case more rapidly than expected, introducing less than a score of witnesses including Patterson, and four of the other eight negroes indicted with him in the alleged attacks.

The testimony of Dr. R. R. Bridges of Scottsboro, was read from the transcript of Patterson's second trial here in 1933, as the physician is ill, and was unable to attend.

Only a portion of his testimony was read by Samuel S. Leibowitz, of New York and that part was confined to Dr. Bridges's examination, which he said disclosed only a few small bruises a few hours after the alleged attacks.

The physician had testified that he did not note any blood on Mrs. Price when he examined her and that her pulse and respiration were normal.

One of the defense's star witnesses was Lester Carter, who testified he accompanied Mrs. Price and Ruby Bates, who repudiated testimony that she was attacked, from Huntsville to Chattanooga the day before the attacks.

Carter's Testimony

He testified that Mrs. Price, the Bates girl and Orville Gilley boarded the freight train in Chattanooga the following day to return to Huntsville.

Before the train arrived in Stevenson, he said, some other white hoboes had been throwing rocks at negroes on the train.

At Stevenson, Carter told the jury, the negroes came forward and during a fight he "clumb" off the train and several others were thrown off.

Patterson took the stand to make a sweeping denial of attacking Mrs. Price, replying to Leibowitz's questions on direct examination, "I never saw no woman on the train."

Patterson also denied making a confession to Opie Golden, a guard at Kilby Prison while he was in the death house there, or admitting guilt at any other time.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
January 26, 1936

Intimidating Juries

When the "Scottsboro negroes," so-called, first were tried and convicted in Scottsboro the "liberal magazines, published in New York and other foreign cities, set up a mighty wail that the court was intimidated, that the court house square was crowded with enraged people gnashing their teeth. The purport of what they said was that the jury was afraid to acquit the negroes and their feelings were frightfully outraged when they thought of the wild and blood-thirsty Alabamians.

The other day four men were tried in San Francisco for murder. The charge was that they, members of some seamen's union or other, invaded a meeting of a union, started a riot, terrorized and so frightened one poor fellow that he jumped out of a window and was killed.

Now these men were engaging in what The New Republic considers "the class war," it is all for the "class war" and thinks of it as a holy war whether men cut throats and throw bombs or not. This magazine declares and declares gloatingly that three days before the trial ended about ten thousand men in San Fransisco and other coast cities went on strike half an hour in demonstration of sympathy for the four prisoners, who, by the way, were acquitted. We take it for granted that the jury believed them innocent, but The New Republic cannot conceive of an honest jury in Alabama.

When four or five hundred men appear on the court house square of a Southern town while negroes are on trial the courts are "intimidated," these "liberals" say, but when ten thousand men during a trial of the people they like, go on strike to show resentment against the trial, it is all fine and good and glorious.

Charity compels that these "liberals" forever meddling with the South be set down as stupid, for the alternative is to characterize them as hypocrites.

Alabama

5384

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.
6

Wounded 'Scottsboro Case' Negro Is Removed From Hospital To Jail

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Feb. 5—(AP)—Critically wounded ten days ago as he attacked a deputy sheriff, Ozie Powell, of Atlanta, one of nine negro defendants in the "Scottsboro case" was recovered sufficiently today to be removed to the hospital ward of the Jefferson County Jail.

Quietly, deputies sheriff and State highway patrolmen who have stood guard over him at the County Hospital, shortly before noon removed the negro to the jail. The trip was without incident.

"I'm feeling fine and I'm glad to be back," Deputy Sheriff Dewitt Truss quoted the negro as saying. "But don't put me with the other boys. I don't want any part of them any more."

Powell was wounded by a bullet in the head on Jan. 24, after he had slashed the throat of Deputy Sheriff Edgar Blalock of Morgan County, as the nine negroes were being brought to Birmingham from Decatur.

Sheriff Street Sandlin, driving the car, in which he and Blalock were transporting three of the negroes. Powell Roy Wright, And Clarence Norris, shot Powell after what he described as an attack by Wright and Powell.

A surgeon removed the bullet and Powell has improved steadily.

The attack on the officers will be investigated by the Morgan County Grand Jury when it convenes in regular session Feb. 17. Sheriff Sandlin has declared he believed "white people" prompted the attack, and made an investigation, findings of which have not been revealed.

Trials in Decatur were postponed, a few hours before the affray near Lacon, Jan. 24, after defense and State attorneys could not agree on a "showing" (or deposition) for Dr. R. R. Bridges, of Scottsboro, by attorneys for the negroes. A jury already had been selected to try Clarence Norris, twice convicted and sentenced to death, when the indefinite postponement was ordered by Judge W. W. Callahan.

Heywood Patterson, one of the nine defendants had been convicted by a jury the day before of an attack on Mrs. Victoria Price and his punishment fixed at 75 years. Three times before Patterson had been convicted and sentenced to death.

The nine negroes are under indictments charging them with attacking Mrs. Price and Ruby Bates, Huntsville mill workers, on a freight train in Jackson County, March 25, 1931.

Twice death sentences in the case have been set aside by the United States Supreme Court, once on grounds the negroes were without adequate counsel, and again because of "systematic exclusion of negroes from juries in Alabama.

NEW YORK TIMES

JAN 27 1936

SAY GUARDS GOADED SCOTTSBORO NEGRO

Leibowitz and Watts Assert Officers Tried to Make Prisoners Change Counsel.

STABBING VERSIONS DIFFER

Two Defendants Are Quoted as Charging Sheriff Threatened to Kill Them in Car.

By F. RAYMOND DANIELL.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 26.—Defense attorneys in the Scottsboro case said today that their clients had told them that Ozie Powell, one of the nine Negro prisoners who was shot in the head after an attack with a knife upon a deputy sheriff of Morgan County, was goaded into his rash act by threats intended to frighten them into repudiating their present lawyers.

Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief of defense counsel, and C. L. Watts, his Southern associate, made this assertion in a joint statement issued after they had questioned Roy Wright and Clarence Norris, who were handcuffed to the critically wounded Powell when the fracas started in an automobile on the way here from the Morgan County jail in Decatur.

The lawyers also visited Powell in the Hillman Hospital, where he was taken for the removal of a bullet from his brain, and said they had found him too delirious to talk, despite assertions by policemen guarding him that he was lucid both before and after the visit of his attorneys. The guards said that Powell had confessed that there was a plot by the Negroes to escape and that he asserted he had been forced into it under threat of death.

The version of the stabbing and shooting as given out by the defense attorneys before they left town for home was sharply at variance with the official accounts. Sheriff J. Street Sandlin of Morgan County has said that he shot Powell without the exchange of a word after the Negro had attacked his deputy, Edgar Blalock, with a knife.

Sheriff Pushes "Plot" Inquiry.

The Morgan County Sheriff, who is holding Ernest Merriwether, a Negro delivery boy, on an open charge on the suspicion that he sold the knife to Powell, said today that he was continuing his investigation into what he said he believed to have been a plot by white men to let the Negroes escape.

Wright denied to his lawyers the charge of Sheriff Sandlin that he, too, was armed with a knife. He said that Norris, whose two hands were manacled as he sat between him and Powell, tried desperately to stop the fight and get Powell to drop his knife.

According to the Negroes, pressure which was exerted on them when they were taken to Decatur last Jan. 6 for arraignment before Judge W. W. Callahan, was renewed when they started back for Birmingham after Haywood Patterson's trial, which resulted in a conviction and a sentence of seventy-five years in prison.

Negroes Charge Death Threat.

Lieut. Gov. Thomas E. Knight Jr. and Deputy Assistant Attorney General Thomas E. Lawson, the Negroes said, "rolled up" just as Sheriff Sandlin was threatening to execute all three Negroes unless they admitted that their lawyers gave Powell the knife.

This is Roy Wright's story as the lawyers reconstructed it from their notes:

"We were taken from Birmingham to Decatur by train on the day we were to be arraigned before Judge Callahan. One of the deputies who took us to Decatur was a deputy named Walton.

"He said to us:

"'When you get up to the court in Decatur tell the judge that you don't want Mr. Watts or Mr. Leibowitz as your lawyers. The only thing those lawyers can do is to make more trouble for you and if you say that you don't want them, the judge would then appoint a lawyer for you, and if that happens then Mr Knight will drop out of the case and it will not go so hard against you.'

"We went to court but we never told the judge anything of the kind. On the return trip they carried us by automobile. Walton was driving the car, with Sheriff Sandlin by his side. Haywood Patterson and Ozie Powell were in the car with me.

Quotes Deputy as Warning Him.

"Walton said to us, after the car left Decatur:

"'Leibowitz has brought Mr. Watts into the case to draw more money. The lawyers will profit a million dollars on you and then drop you. I don't blame you for not doing as I said before today because you boys didn't realize what the lawyer had been up to, up to now. But you have been told two or three times what to do and wouldn't take my advice and from now on I will not have any more mercy on you than a snake.'

"I told the deputy that I was satisfied with my lawyers and that if Mr. Leibowitz wanted to hire Mr. Watts, who is a Southern lawyer, it was up to him."

Wright proceeded as follows, telling of the later trip in the course of which Deputy Blalock was cut and Powell was shot:

"Last Friday we left the jail in Decatur. At the wheel of our car was the High Sheriff of Decatur and beside him was the deputy who was cut. After a while this deputy said: 'Walton has been talking to you; if you had done what he wanted you, all would have been tried to be let off with a light sentence—not more than ten years.'

"The high Sheriff said: 'I told you Niggers that you wouldn't get a trial and I'll bet ten to one that you'll not be tried in ten years. If I had my way, I'd drive all these lawyers out of town.'

"Ozie said: 'Oh, I'd rather have those lawyers than any I've ever seen,' and turned to me. He then said: 'Damn, what they're talking about.'

"The fellow that got cut was sort of turned around in his seat with his back to the windows and his left hand nearest to Powell. He slapped Ozie as soon as he had made that remark and Ozie got his knife out of his pocket and slashed at him. As he leaned forward to slash the deputy he pulled Clarence with him because Clarence was handcuffed to Ozie Powell. Clarence yanked Ozie back and I said:

"'Sit down and give up that knife.'

"With that Ozie dropped the knife to the floor of the car. The High Sheriff started blowing his siren and put his foot on the brake and stopped the car. We all threw our hands up as the car stopped. The High Sheriff got out of the car on the left side and walked toward the front of the car. Then as though he had changed his mind he started back. He pulled out his gun and pulled open the door a little bit and pointed the gun inside the car and said:

"'I'm going to get rid of all of you.'

"He fired one shot at Powell. Soon afterward Mr. Knight and Mr. Lawson rolled up on the other side."

NEW BEDFORD, MASS. MERCURY

JAN 23 1936

The Scottsboro cases continue to drag out their sordid length, in an Alabama atmosphere of intolerance. The reversal by the United States Supreme Court of the latest previous conviction of the defendant now on trial for his life, on the ground that Negroes were systematically excluded from Alabama juries, was technically met in the present trial, when twelve Negroes were included in the jury panel of one hundred. Not one of the twelve secured a place on the jury, however. On Wednesday, there was a dramatic incident, when the lawyers for the defense moved for a mistrial, accusing the presiding justice of making it impossible for the defendant, Haywood Patterson, to receive an impartial verdict from a jury which had heard the judge's comments from the bench and seen his "irritable" and "impatient" attitude toward the defense. The judge's reply was that he could not see anything he had done that was wrong, but that if he had done anything wrong he would try to rectify it. He denied the motion, telling the jurors that if he had made any mistakes they could be corrected in the Appellate Court.

A significant feature of the trials thus far has been that they do not appear to stand the scrutiny of the higher jurisdictions. Meanwhile the nine defendants remain in jail. Their imprisonment has extended over a period of five years.

PROVIDENCE, R. I.
NEWS TRIBUNE

JAN 25 1936

THE SCOTTSBORO CASE

The first indication that justice may yet triumph in the famous Scottsboro case is to be seen in the verdict of the jury which for the fourth time found Heywood Patterson guilty. Three times Patterson has been sentenced to die after trials so full of prejudice that once a trial judge and twice the United States Supreme Court threw out the convictions and ordered retrials. The present jury has fixed a 75-year prison term instead of the death penalty. While this is a victory for the defense it is not enough and appeals will be taken until once more the United States Supreme Court is likely to scan the sarcastic comments of the trial judge and other evidences of prejudice which bear out the defense contention that it is impossible to obtain a fair trial in Alabama for any of the nine Negroes involved.

There is a distant admission to be read into this last jury's verdict. If Heywood Patterson is guilty of having participated in the so-called mass attack upon the two white women, of questionable character, who are paraded as the victims in this case, though one has denied being attacked, he merits the death penalty and nothing less. To hand out to him a 75-year prison term is the jury's admission that there is reasonable doubt of the truth of all the fantastic stories alleged by the prosecution. If there is reasonable doubt the law says the defendant be given its benefit. All this will be well weighed by the Supreme Court.

The Scottsboro case is a degrading spectacle but is has served a useful purpose. It has called attention, as nothing else in the past, to the violent prejudice which makes of nearly every trial of a Negro in the South a mockery of justice. Recognition of this fact is the first step toward amelioration of the condition. The Scottsboro case has also served to bring to the notice of the country that in the United States Supreme Court even the least of our citizens may obtain justice. The part the Supreme Court has played in preventing these poor Negroes from being made victims of a violent prejudice bears out the motto engraved upon the new magnificent building of the court: "Equal Justice Under Law."

NEBRASKA CITY, NEB
NEWS-PRESS

JAN 30 1936

SCOTTSBORO.

THE persistence with which Alabama proceeds with the historic "Scottsboro case" would indicate that the Deep South is to have a Saccho-Vanzetti issue all its own.

There are grave doubts as to the guilt of those Negro defendants. The testimony of the women involved has been changed once or twice and some impartial investigators have come to the conclusion that the women's past records is not such as to warrant a great deal of credence in what they have to say.

But something else is involved. A Negro in the South is not presumed to have all the God-given rights and privileges of a white man. Sometimes it is enough to suspect, not only to prove. Even if the defendants in this case are convicted on evidence which, to say the least, is open to controversy, many persons will say that they should be punished for even consorting with white women, particularly so under the circumstances of riding in a box-car together.

Anyway, the case is interesting in that it is a long, drawn-out affair; besides, it attracted the Civil Liberties Union, one of whose members and sympathizers is Clarence Darrow, the Chicago lawyer. It is bound to make newspaper copy and will continue to do so until it has been finally settled.

TROY, N. Y.
RECORD

JAN 25 1936

ANOTHER SCOTTSBORO VERDICT.

The retrial of the first of the nine defendants in what is now widely known as the Scottsboro case has resulted in a verdict that might be accepted as a modification of the three previous verdicts which carried the death penalty. According to court procedure in Alabama the jury can fix the penalty and in this instance decided that it should be imprisonment for a term of 75 years. Even if the time for good behavior should be allowed the judgment would mean practically life imprisonment. Thus Patterson, the Negro, has been spared his life because the courts of the nation compelled at least a semblance of fairness in the trial.

The opinion of the vast majority of citizens who have followed the trials through the press are convinced that there has not been enough incriminating evidence against Patterson to convict him anywhere but in the South and probably only in a backward state there. The case against this poor Negro was so weak in the first trial that people outside of Alabama and many residents of the commonwealth believed that he should have been acquitted. And this opinion applied to the other eight defendants.

It is almost certain that no white man would have been convicted on the flimsy and unsupported evidence of Victoria Price, the alleged victim of the assaults of the nine Negroes. The other witness for the prosecution has admitted she committed perjury and has withdrawn from the case. For this reason the public is wearying of the hounding of these colored youths in pursuance of race prejudice. Few people believe in the mixing of the white and black races but if the white population of this country wishes to practice the justice it professes it will make no distinction in its administration of the law.

We may go so far as to allow that the nine defendants were not young men of any standing, even of any moral background, but the fact remains there was no valid evidence against them excepting that they were black and their accuser was a white woman. Evidently the standard of judging testimony in Alabama can hardly be recognized as American.

As might have been expected the lawyers for the defense will appeal from the latest verdict and thereby afford an opportunity for the eventual recognition of justice for these nine colored youths. A start has been made in this direction in saving Patterson from another death sentence.

The trials and preceding circumstances should be most significant to both the white and the black races. Both should condemn the intermarriages that might occur and representatives of neither should try to find excuses for such illogical mating which in nearly every instance has unfortunate results. Each race should confine its associations to its own sphere.

BUFFALO, N. Y.
TIMES

JAN 25 1936

"GET IT OVER WITH!"

"DON'T go out and quibble over the evidence," roared the young prosecutor to an Alabama jury at the fourth trial of Haywood Patterson, one of the Scottsboro Negro defendants. "Say to yourselves we're tired of this job' and put it behind you. Get it done quick, and protect the fair womanhood of this great state!"

One of the jurymen called out: "Let's come back tonight and get it over with!" Then they and Judge Callaghan sentenced Patterson to 75 years in prison.

From this, and from charges of bias hurled at the judge by the defendant's local counsel, it appears that the seven other defendants are to be tried in the same atmosphere of passion as has marked the other trials. Yesterday's shooting certainly will not lessen that passion.

These trials have stirred Alabama for nearly five years. Twice the U. S. Supreme Court has interceded in behalf of the "due process" which it said was denied the Negroes. We do not blame Alabama for wanting to "get it over with."

But this is not the way. Alabama may think she can put this ugly case behind her by sending all the defendants to the gallows or to prison for life. But unless she deals them justice—exact and impartial and free from race prejudice — the case will plague her, just as the Mooney case has plagued California for 20 years.

Justice cannot live in an air surcharged with violence and hate.

Scottsboro Case Letters Turned Up In Arkansas

BLYTHEVILLE, ARK., Feb. 6.—(AP)—Blytheville police reported confiscation here today of literature and letters relating to the famous [illegible] Scottsboro case and [illegible] officials of that State.

The officers refused to [illegible] public the name of a negro they said had the papers but said the letters were sent out by a St. Louis organization.

Some of the literature [illegible] the "prosecution" of Sheriff J. S. Sandlin of Morgan County, Ala., for an "attack" on Ozie Powell, one of the Scottsboro defendants. Others urged [illegible] residents to adopt resolutions urging the impeachment of Circuit Judge W. W. Callahan of Alabama for "allowing existence of mob feeling."

The literature also demanded freedom for the Scottsboro negroes. Further investigation was underway here tonight.

Advertiser
2-7-36
Montgomery (Ala)

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

5385

SCOTTSBORO CASE ENTERS 4TH TRIAL

New York Times

New York

Negroes May Serve Upon the Alabama Jury for First Time in a Half Century.

VENUE MOTION UP TODAY

Radical Groups Remain in Background to Aid Defense—Southerners Show Apathy.

By F. RAYMOND DANIELL.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 19.—In the same court room setitng but in an atmosphere somewhat changed, the Scottsboro case, cause celebre of the South, will go to trial again tomorrow before County Judge William Washington Callahan and a jury on which, for the first time in half a century, Negroes have a chance, though a small one, of being included.

The trial will be that of Haywood Patterson, a Negro vagrant who, with eight others of his race, is accused of an attack on two white girls who, like the Negroes, were stealing a ride on a Southern Railway freight train on March 25, 1931.

Three times before, once as a friendless Negro hobo and twice as a potential martyr for the Communist party, Patterson has been tried, convicted and condemned to death for the alleged attack on Victoria Price and Ruby Bates.

Twice the Supreme Court of the United States has intervened to save Patterson from death in the electric chair and once his life was spared by Judge James E. Horton, a local jurist, who was tossed into the political discard by the electorate of Morgan County because he set aside the verdict of a local jury as against the weight of evidence.

Jury Will Be Chosen Today.

Tomorrow, after a perfunctory motion by the defense for a change of venue, Patterson for the fourth time will see a jury chosen to decide his fate.

Some time before dawn Patterson and six of his co-defendants will be brought here from the Jefferson County jail in Birmingham, where they have been held "for safekeeping" since the last trial, a little more than two years ago. A heavily armed group of Sheriff's deputies will guard them on the way, but there were no indications here tonight of any desire to molest them.

The seven Negroes spent a week in the local jail after their arraignment a fortnight ago to plead not guilty to a superseding indictment returned by a Jackson County grand jury which, for the first time in the memory of the oldest living resident of Scottsboro, included a grand juror who was a Negro. No unusual measures were taken to protect them and they were not molested, but during their sojourn here a white prisoner sawed his way through the bars and escaped.

Inquiry among the townsfolk, including a majority of the ministers of the seventeen white churches here, indicated today that while Northern interference with the "course of Alabama justice" is still strongly resented, there is a disposition to regard the case with profound apathy. The recent arraignment of the Negroes at which the defense sought to have the trials transferred to the United States District Court was page one news in only three Alabama newspapers.

Defense Is Reorganized.

Since the last trials, which resulted in conviction of Patterson and Clarence Norris, the defense committee has been reorganized. The International Labor Defense, a Communist affiliate, which admittedly saved the lives of the Negroes after their first trial at Scottsboro, has retired strategically to the background. The new defense committee is headed by the Rev. Dr. Allen Knight Chalmers of the Broadway Tabernacle. William J. Schiefflin, president of the Citizens' Union of New York is treasurer, and among its members the committee numbers many churchmen of the North and South.

Alabama Liberals have insisted ever since the Communists intervened and since Samuel S. Leibowitz, New York criminal lawyer, attacked the "systematic exclusion" of Negroes frof local juries, that once "outside radical interference" was removed the Negroes would receive a fair trial. There were indications tonight that the defense had decided to test out that theory.

Clarence L. Watts, of the firm of Watts & White, of Huntsville, the home town of Victoria Price, who, since Ruby Bates recanted her testimony at the first trial, remains the only complaining witness, has been retained by the defense. He is a prominent attorney in these parts and recently was a candidate for election to the House of Representatives from his Congressional district. Although Mr. Leibowitz will continue to call the plays in this game in which life is the stake, Mr. Watts is scheduled to do the courtroom talking.

Knight Will Be Prosecutor.

His adversary will be Thomas E. Knight Jr., now Lieutenant Governor of Alabama, who, as Attorney General of the State, stepped into the case when the Supreme Court first reversed the conviction of the Negroes after his father, a Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, had written the opinion by which that court sustained the verdict of the jury at Scottsboro.

Mr. Knight has had himself appointed a special deputy Attorney General in order to continue his rôle as prosecutor in the case.

Much of the bitterness exhibited against the defense at former trials is economic in its origin, although race prejudice, sectionalism and politics have played their part. Throughout Alabama it has been said that the Communists have exploited the Scottsboro trials, in which Negroes took an unwonted attitude of asserting their legal rights, for the purpose of promoting the organization of the Share Croppers' Union, which has caused considerable trouble in the cotton fields in the last three years.

One of the major tasks of the defense at this trial will be to demonstarte convincingly its complete divorcement from radical sponsorship.

The antagonism which previously existed in Morgan County against the defense and the defense attorneys led to the filing of a motion for a change of venue to another county. This motion, supported by the affidavits of R. A. Burleson, a national guard officer and a private investigator, and quoting a dozen townsmen as saying a fair trial was impossible in this community, is to be argued at the opening of court tomorrow

Deny Signing Affidavits.

The persons named in the affidavit of the investigator as having said that the cards were stacked against the Negroes here, have all sworn to affidavits for the prosecution, denying the statements attributed to them, and even the attorneys for the defendant concede that the motion probably will be denied. It was filed originally more to protect the record for an appeal than in any hope that it would be granted.

This case which has stirred the South, with its "Negro problem" real or imagined, more deeply than any issue in the past half century, had its origin aboard a freight train bound from Chattanooga to Memphis, Tenn., in 1931. Ruby Bates and Victoria Price were aboard that train when a group of white hoboes became embroiled in a fight with a dozen Negro vagrants and were thrown off the train at Stevenson.

When a posse stopped the train further along the line at Paint Rock, the two white women, who, the defense contends, were in danger of prosecution themselves for vagrancy, accused the Negroes of attacking them.

With a somewhat hysterical atmosphere evident among the public, they were tried and convicted at Scottsboro. The Supreme Court of the United States ordered a new trial on the ground that they had not been adequately represented by counsel. This order came after the I. L. D. had taken up their case.

Then Patterson was tried at Decatur under a change of venue. He was convicted by a jury before Judge Horton who, on the motion of the defense set aside the verdict of guilty and ordered a new trial. Patterson was tried here again before Judge Callahan two years and two months ago and again convicted, as was Clarence Norris.

The United States Supreme Court ordered a new trial for Norris and directed the Supreme Court of Alabama to allow Patterson another trial by granting an appeal which the Alabama court had rejected on a technicality.

As Patterson's fourth trial was about to open on the birthday anniversary of General Robert E. Lee, the whereabouts of Ruby Bates, the complaining witness who became a star witness for the defense was undisclosed. Lester Carter, one of the white hoboes who testified for the defense at Patterson's last two trials, arrived in town today with William Richter, an associate of Mr. Leibowitz. He is ready to testify again that the Negroes did not attack the two girls while he was on the train.

NEW SCOTTSBORO CASE IS RESTED BY STATE

Constitution

Penitentiary Guard Testifies Patterson, Defendant, Admitted Crime.

Atlanta, Ga.
1-22-36

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 21.—(AP)—The state rested tonight in the fourth trial of Heywood Patterson, one of the negro defendants in the Scottsboro case, after the defense sought vainly for a mistrial.

Attorney Clarence L. Watts entered the motion declaring the court had "shown impatience" with defense counsel. He was quickly overruled by Judge W. W. Callahan.

"We feel comments of the court tending to minimize importance of the defense has made it impossible for us to get a fair trial," Watts told the court.

Judge Callahan said he would "rectify" if the attorney would be specific, then directed the jury of 12 white men to disregard the remarks Watts recited as the basis for his motion.

The state concluded its case quickly, presenting only 10 witnesses.

A purported confession by Patterson was related at the first of the retrials ordered by the United States supreme court.

Opie Golden, guard at the state penitentiary, testified the confession was made orally by Patterson, whose previous conviction was reversed by the United States Supreme Court on grounds negroes were "systematically" excluded from Alabama juries.

Although one negro sat on the grand jury which returned new indictments in the case, none of the 12 drawn in the panel of 100 for the Patterson trial remained when the jury was finally selected.

Seven were excused "for cause" and the remaining five were struck by the defense or state. Strikes are made by number, making it impossible to determine which side eliminated the negroes.

Golden said Patterson, thrice convicted and sentenced to die, told him he attacked "them girls" and that his eight co-defendants likewise were guilty.

They are accused of attacking Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates, mill workers, aboard a freight train near Scottsboro, Ala., in 1931.

The statement was made by Patterson, Golden testified, in 1934 while the negro was being held in the death house pending appeal to the supreme court.

Cross-examined by Samuel S. Leibowitz, of New York, chief of defense counsel, the guard said he made no effort to relay the information to the prison warden until the next day. He said that when the warden went to Patterson's cell the prisoner refused to talk.

Preceding Golden, Mrs. Price testified for the eighth time regarding the alleged mass attack. She identified Patterson as one of her attackers.

During a recess in the proceedings, Judge W. W. Callahan fixed dates for trials of two other defendants to begin next week. He set January 27 for the trial of Charlie Weems and January 30 for Andy Wright.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
January 25, 1936

Dismal and Interminable

THE cutting and shooting affray yesterday between OZIE POWELL, one of the Scottsboro defendants, and OFFICER BLAYLOCK, one of the guards engaged in transferring the Negroes from Decatur, injects further tensions into an already excessively tense situation in Alabama, Even without this episode, the Scottsboro case had become so deeply enmeshed with considerations of politics and State pride, that the 75-year sentence imposed on HEYWOOD PATTERSON, first of the defendants to be tried this week, came as a gratifying surprise. The prevailing opinion was that PATTERSON would be convicted in short order, despite grave doubts in the minds of unbiased observers as to his guilt.

There was altogether too much reason for believing that the jury would be guided by the advice of SOLICITOR HUTSON, who besought the members not to "go out and quibble over the evidence," but to "get it done quick and protect the fair womanhood of this great State."

The attitude of JUDGE CALLAHAN has not been conducive to an impartial verdict, if one can credit the accounts of the trial by F. RAYMOND DANIELL, staff correspondent of the New York *Times*, and we see no reason not to do so. MR. DANIELL reports that JUDGE CALLAHAN has been repeatedly charged by the defense with "bias and prejudicial conduct." He described an instance in which the court "angrily denied" a defense motion, and another in which he made a statement "with rising choler."

It is not difficult to understand why so many Alabamians are incensed at the manner in which the Scottsboro case has been exploited by certain radical groups from the North, or by the famous denunciation of Alabama jurors which CHIEF DEFENSE COUNSEL LEIBOWITZ uttered in New York a couple of years ago. Nevertheless, the fact remains that these things have made it immeasurably more difficult for the defendants to get justice.

Now the BLAYLOCK-POWELL affair has served to interpose still further obstacles in the way of an impartial judicial rendering. So has the failure of the prosecution and the defense to arrive at an agreement with respect to a "showing" for an ill defense witness, necessitating an indefinite postponement yesterday of CLARENCE NORRIS' trial.

The fact is that this whole Scottsboro business seems absolutely interminable. Years will probably elapse before it is settled one way or the other. The conviction of HEYWOOD PATTERSON will be appealed, and it will have to pass through the Alabama Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court for the third time. If the other trials go forward now, they also will be appealed, if the defendants are convicted. It is difficult to see any end to the dreadful mess. It has cost the State of Alabama enormous sums of money already, and it will cost many more thousands before it is over. If it were not for the political angle, GOVERNOR GRAVES might be induced to pardon the Negroes, and put an end to the whole dismal business. But he doubtless remembers what happened to JUDGE JAMES E. HORTON, who courageously set the conviction aside in one of the earlier trials. JUDGE HORTON was defeated for re-election.

Collinsville, Ala., New Era
January 31, 1936

SCOTTSBORO NEGROES RATHER EXPENSIVE

The Scottsboro negroes who attacked two white women five years ago, while riding a freight train have attracted wide spread attention. These negroes have been defended by lawyers from both the South and North. Last Saturday near Cullman the Powell negro slashed the throat of an officer in an attempt for freedom, the other officer shooting him in the head. He is under treatment in the medical ward of Birmingham jail.

It seems that a lot of money is being spent on these negroes unnecessarily. Why don't they spend this money fos something more worthwhile and give them a sentence, if they think the negroes deserve it or whatever is to be meted to them. They have been hauled from Scottsboro to Decatur and to Birmingham numbers of times and this takes money besides the cost of the courts and lawyers fees. It seems like in five years time something could have been decided on.

Callahan's Impeachment Is Demanded

New Orleans, Louisville, St. Louis, Boston Hold Rallies

A wave of furious protests have swept the country following the murderous assault on Ozie Powell, one of the Scottsboro boys, by a group of lynch-bent Alabama sheriffs.

Daily Worker

From every section of the United States resolutions and telegrams are pouring in on Gov. Bibb Graves of Alabama, demanding the impeachment of Judge W. W. "Speed" Callahan, who whipped up a lynch atmosphere at the Patterson trial, and urging the immediate and safe unconditional release of the nine Scottsboro boys.

1-29-36

The New Theatre League, 55 W. 45th St., sent a telegram to Pres. Roosevelt, demanding Federal intervention to save the Scottsboro boys' lives. It protested "their barbarous treatment" in the name of "thousands of theatre workers."

New York, N.Y.

United Front in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS, La. Jan. 28.—The Socialist Party local here joined with five other organizations in a united front Scottsboro defense meeting at which a resolution was passed condemning the murderous lynch attempt against Ozie Powell, one of the Scottsboro boys, by Sheriff J. S. Sandlin of Alabama.

Among the other organizations participating in the United meeting were, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the International Labor Defense, the Methodist Federation for Social Service, the League for Industrial Democracy and District 24, of the Communist Party.

Louisville Protests

LOUISVILLE, Ky. Jan. 28—At a meeting of 400 citizens held here Sunday in Columbia Hall, a resolution was passed protesting the brutal shooting of the Scottsboro boy, Ozie Powell, by the Sheriff of Alabama and calling upon Governor Bibb Graves to use his executive power to assure the safety of the nine Scottsboro defendants.

Boston Unionists Protest

BOSTON, Mass. Jan. 28.—One hundred trade union leaders, progressives and liberals attending a discussion at the Hotel Bradford here Sunday, adopted a strong resolution demanding the arrest of the deputy responsible for the lynch attempt on Ozie Powell, and asking immediate freedom of all the Scottsboro boys.

A Scottsboro protest meeting has been arranged for Wednesday night at Ebenezer Church, 157 W. Springfield St., in which the following organizations will jointly participate: The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; the Methodist Federation of Social Service; the American Civil Liberties Union; the League for Industrial Democracy; the local Urban League; the International Labor Defense; and the Church League for Industrial Democracy.

Youngstown Communists Act

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio. Jan. 28—Appealing for the formation of a local Scottsboro Defense Committee, the Communist Party issued a statement yesterday condemning the shooting of Ozie Powell, one of the Scottsboro boys and urging "the Negro and white people to unite in their defense."

Action in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Jan. 28.—Indignation against the attack of the Alabama deputies on the Scottsboro defendants reached a high point here today with the announcement by the local Committee for the Negro Congress that a campaign would be organized to mobilize protests from outstanding Negro organizations.

Meanwhile the mass convention of project workers which is set for Sunday, the Scottsboro-Herdon mass meeting called for Tuesday, Feb. 4 and the mass open hearing of the American Workers Union are preparing to take similar action. A resolution will also be presented by a committee to the mass meeting of the auto workers on Monday, which is sponsored by the Committee for Industrial Unions and will be held in Carpenters Hall.

Both the City Committee of the Project Workers Union and the American Workers Union have passed resolutions protesting the attack and have advised all branches to do likewise.

Mooney Defender in Protest

The attack was vigorously denounced by the overflow crowd which braved zero weather here Sunday to attend the Lenin memorial meeting in the Municipal Auditorium.

Charles Blome, of the Mooney Molders Defense Committee, called for the same kind of united action to save the boys as was taken by the Russian and other workers throughout the world to save the life of Mooney.

Herndon Hits Shooting

More than 500 persons packed the Odd Fellows Hall, Jamaica, L. I. Friday night to hear Angelo Herndon, heroic Negro youth leader, describe the life and work of Lenin.

Members of the Communist and Socialist parties, the Unemployed Workers' Alliance and of the Republican and Democratic parties were present at the meeting.

Applying the teachings of Lenin to the United States, Herndon pointed out the growing fascist forces in America as shown by the Scottsboro case, the Tampa murder, the terror used against the unemployed and the share croppers of Arkansas and other Southern States.

Columbus, Ga. Enquirer-Sun
February 1, 1936

THE SCOTTSBORO TRAGEDY

78

The tragedy at Scottsboro, Ala., Friday, in which a group of negroes were burned to death, will be widely deplored in that state, and elsewhere.

The burning of the truck in which twenty prisoners were being transferred from their camp to a highway project some distance away, was said to be the fault of one of the prisoners lighting a piece of paper near a can containing gasoline.

The guards made strenuous efforts to rescue the convicts from the truck-cage, and suffered burns on the hands and face in doing so.

Steel cages are used in many places for transferring convicts to and from their work. This is the first serious accident of the kind that has come to our notice. This is also the first time we have known of gasoline being carried inside such a cage. This manifestly was inexcusable.

The tragedy, happening at Scottsboro, will bring to that community more undesirable notoriety, of which it has already had more than its share in connection with the trial of negroes charged with criminal assault, and which has gained national character.

The accident holocaust will lose nothing in the telling by those representative of northern organizations and publications who have injected themselves into the trial case at Scottsboro.

But, the tragedy was an accident caused by one of the negroes and it is no doubt more deplored in Scottsboro than elsewhere.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

5386

JUDGE CALLAHAN OKAYS WHITE JURORS WHO SAY NEGROES ARE INFERIOR

Journal & Guide
Norfolk, Va
1-25-36

Participation of Lieutenant Governor Knight Attacked As Illegal; Big Upset Likely If Claim Sustained

Special to Journal and Guide

DECATUR, Ala.—It is all right for white jurors to believe that Negroes are "inferior" and to have prejudice against Negroes as long as that prejudice is "not too great," it was declared here Monday by Judge W. W. Callahan, in the picking of the jury for the fourth of the famous Scottsboro trials series. Haywood Paterson's trial, the first, began Monday.

Judge Callahan, who sat in the trials of Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris in 1934 and sentenced them both to death, said that if the jurors felt they could give a fair trial even though they had prejudice, they were acceptable. The judge did not explain how great the prejudice would have to be before a white man would be unable to give a fair trial.

7 Negroes Excused

Icy roads delayed the opening of the trial, set for Monday morning. The seven defendants had to be brought ninety miles from Birmingham to Decatur handcuffed and under heavy guard and the weather delayed the opening of the trial until 1 p. m.

The day was spent entirely in examining prospective jurors. According to Alabama law, all jurymen are examined first by the judge, then by defense counsel, and finally by the prosecution and challenged for cause in the process. They are questioned twelve at a time.

After the entire venire of 100 has been examined, the prosecution challenges one peremptorily, then the defense two, until only twelve men are left. These form the trial jury.

Melvin Hutson, Morgan County solicitor and successor to the notorious Wade Wright, who questioned the talesmen for the prosecution, was interested only in whether or not the prospective jurors were opposed to capital punishment in cases where rape had been proved. Seven of the 12 Negroes called in the first panel of 100 have already been excused for various reasons from jury service.

Despite the ruling of the Supreme Court of the United States in April, 1935, that Negro people must be guaranteed their constitutional rights and called for jury service in the state of Alabama, the fourth trial of Patterson opened with special jim crow arrangements for the Negroes called for jury service.

Special chairs were placed alongside the jury box for the twelve Negroes included on the panel of 100 called in connection with the Patterson trial.

Even when there were empty seats within the jury box, the Negro citizens questioned for jury service had to sit in special chairs designated for them. When one colored man walked into the jury box, Judge W. W. Callahan, who sentenced Patterson and Clarence Norris to death in their previous trials, and who is presiding judge of the present trial called out to him,

"Here boy, sit over there."

KNIGHT CHALLENGED

Except for the choosing of the jury, the only important issues raised at the opening of the trial Monday, were defense motions for a change of venue based on fifty affidavits proving that "cold and deliberate crystallization of resentment against the defendants" in Morgan County would prevent their receiving a fair trial in Decatur.

One of the affidavits was sworn out by Captain R. A. Burleson who was in charge of the National Guard unit at the March-April, 1933, Scottsboro trial. This affidavit Judge Callahan characterised as "unassailable" though he dismissed the motion for change of venue and the remaining affidavits as worthless.

The second important defense motion, also overruled by Callahan, was the challenge introduced by C. L. Watts, of Huntsville, Alabama, defense counsel, questioning the right of Lieutenant Governor Knight to appear as special prosecutor in the Scottsboro case.

According to the constitution of Alabama, it is not permissible for an officer of the state to hold two paid offices at the same time.

The contention of the defense, if sustained in higher courts, would automatically cause the chair of the Lieutenant Governor to be declared vacant; nullify the indictments against the Scottsboro boys obtained by Knight, and void all laws signed by him as presiding officer of the Alabama Senate.

Paterson, who is being tried first sat in the courtroom behind his defense attorneys, C. L. Watts and Samuel Leibowitz, retained by the Scottsboro Defense Committee, composed of six influential national organizations, including the Intenational Labor Defense, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the American Civil Liberties Union, the League for Industrial Democracy, the Methodist Federation for Social Service, and the Church League for Industrial Democracy.

Despite the fact that the Patterson jury was not yet completely selected Monday afternoon, Judge Callahan announced that the trial of Clarence Norris would begin on Thursday of this week. The other defendants were not permitted to stay in the courtroom.

TWO NOT HERE

Two of the boys, who were juveniles at the time of the alleged crime, Roy Wright and Eugene Williams, remained in the Jefferson County Jail at Birmingham.

Though the recent grand jury proceedings at Scottsboro, brought in two indictments against each of the nine boys, based on charges of raping Victoria Price and Ruby Bates, who repudiated the charges at previous trials, Monday's trial announced that the seven defendants had been arraigned and would be tried solely on the Price indictment. A Negro served on this grand jury. How he voted is not known. Only a majority vote is needed for a true bill.

A chief witness for the state Orville Gilley, a white boy who was on the fatal freight train with both girls in March 1931, was not in court Monday. He is at present serving a jail sentence for robbery in Tennessee.

TEDDY WILSON BACK TO CHICAGO?

Rumor has it that Teddy Wilson, who left here a few years ago, is about to return to Chicago with his new title (awarded by the English) of best jazz pianist in the world. He wed a Chicago girl after coming here from Tuskegee where he studied printing, and Mrs. Wilson is also no slouch at the keyboard. He once stroked the ivories with Jimmy Noone's orky and a few other aggregations here and had to do it al la Earl Hines to be accepted he says.

New York Evening Post

JAN 21 1936

NEGRO VENIREMEN SEGREGATED AT SCOTTSBORO TRIAL

Selection of Jury Starts After Judge Ignores Fight on Prosecutor

STAR STATE WITNESS ARRESTED AS ROBBER

By CARLETON BEALS
Special Correspondent N. Y. Post

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 21.—The fourth trial of Haywood Patterson, one of the nine Negro defendants in the famous Scottsboro attack case, was under way today in Morgan County Circuit Court.

On the bench was Judge William Washington Callahan, before whom Patterson previously was convicted and sentenced to death. After denying a motion for a change of venue, he ordered a start on selection of jurors.

The C. L. Watts of Huntsville, recently employed by the Scottsboro Defense Committee to defend the Negroes, questioned the legality of Lieutenant Governor Thomas E. Knight Jr. serving the State as special prosecutor. But Judge Callahan sand: "The court declines to force an answer to that question."

Basis for Appeal

The argument was not pressed, but the defense hopes to use this as the basis for a subsequent Supreme Court appeal.

In refusing a change of venue, the judge said that of fifty affidavits filed by the defense twenty-four were "just bald assertions from past repeated publications about this case from five other sections of the country," as compared with sixty-five affidavits presented by the State from actual residents of Decatur, "some with forty years' residence."

Five Negroes were in the regular panel of thirty-five jurors called to be sworn. None was excused for cause or other reason in the qualifying. In addition to the regular panel, a special venire of sixty-five has been called.

Brought in Handcuffed

Seven of the nine Scottsboro boys were brought into court handcuffed to State police. All were neatly dressed and only Olen Montgomery, the near-blind youth, appeared in vest and white shirt sleeves. He did not stumble as in previous trials, because he now wears trick lensed glasses.

Judge Callahan reserved seats for the newspapers, press associations and other correspondents who could convince the Sheriff of their right to a seat, but he banned the taking of photographs in or near the courtroom.

He held up a confiscated camera, stating that there "ain't gonna be any flashes around this place."

Witness Under Arrest

The defense requested time to get an affidavit from Tennessee of the arrest and sentencing of a star prosecution witness, Orville Gillie, companion of Ruby Bates, one of the reputed attack victims. Gillie is alleged to have been sent up for robbery since the last Scottsboro trial, but will be brought to court under guard to testify.

The five Negroes drawn in first venire were ordered by the court to sit in special chairs to one side of the whites.

"Sit in that chair on this other side," said Judge Callahan when a Negro started to take a seat in the jury box. When another Negro name was in doubt, Judge Callahan remarked humorously, "Well, name that anyway."

He's Excused Anyway

One white juror who served on a

previous trial was excused, "regardless of what the Supreme Court says" as to his being eligible. But when another venireman declared he attended previous trials and was impressed by the evidence against the defendant, Judge Callahan refused to permit challenge for cause, stating it would be "strange if he had not been impressed by something."

For five years the nine Scottsboro boys have stood in the shadow of death. For five years the defense, most of that time headed by Samuel Leibowitz, brilliant New York criminal lawyer, has saved their lives from being taken on the still unproved charge of assaulting two white women hoboes bumming a ride on a freight train.

The question of the Negroes' guilt or innocence has been swallowed up in broader problems of propaganda, race prejudice, northern interference and local political ambition. The South considers the trial a vulgar incident. The "better classes' 'appear indifferent to its outcome and resent what they call outside interference of "New York gold," "Jewish lawyers" and Communists.

NEW YORK TIMES

JAN 20 1936

SCOTTSBORO CASE ENTERS 4TH TRIAL

Negroes May Serve Upon the Alabama Jury for First Time in a Half Century.

VENUE MOTION UP TODAY

Radical Groups Remain in Background to Aid Defense—Southerners Show Apathy.

By F. RAYMOND DANIELL.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 19.—In the same court room setting, but in an atmosphere somewhat changed, the Scottsboro case, cause célèbre of the South, will go to trial again tomorrow before County Judge William Washington Callahan and a jury on which, for the first time in half a century, Negroes have a chance, though a small one, of being included.

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Jury Will Be Chosen Today.

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Some time before dawn Patterson and six of his co-defendants will be brought here from the Jefferson County jail in Birmingham, where they have been held "for safekeeping" since the last trial, a little more than two years ago. A heavily armed group of Sheriff's deputies will guard them on the way, but there were no indications here tonight of any desire to molest them.

The seven Negroes spent a week in the local jail after their arraignment a fortnight ago to plead not guilty to a superseding indictment returned by a Jackson County grand jury which, for the first time in the memory of the oldest living resident of Scottsboro, included a grand juror who was a Negro. No unusual measures were taken to protect them and they were not molested, but during their sojourn here a white prisoner sawed his way through the bars and escaped.

Inquiry among the townsfolk, including a majority of the ministers of the seventeen white churches here, indicated today that while Northern interference with the "course of Alabama justice" is still strongly resented, there is a disposition to regard the case with profound apathy. The recent arraignment of the Negroes at which the defense sought to have the trials transferred to the United States District Court was Page 1 news in only three Alabama newspapers.

Defense Is Reorganized.

Since the last trials, which resulted in conviction of Patterson and Clarence Norris, the defense committee has been reorganized. The International Labor Defense, a Communist affiliate, which admittedly saved the lives of the Negroes after their first trial at Scottsboro, has retired strategically to the background. The new defense committee is headed by the Rev. Dr. Allen Knight Chalmers of the Broadway Tabernacle. William J. Schieffelin, president of the Citizens Union of New York, is treasurer, and among its members the committee numbers many churchmen of the North and South.

Alabama liberals have insisted ever since the Communists intervened and since Samuel S. Leibowitz, New York criminal lawyer, attacked the "systematic exclusion" of Negroes from local juries, that once "outside radical interference" was removed the Negroes would receive a fair trial. There were indications tonight that the defense had decided to test out that theory.

Clarence L. Watts, of the firm of Watts & White, of Huntsville, the home town of Victoria Price, who, since Ruby Bates recanted her testimony at the first trial, remains the only complaining witness, has been retained by the defense. He is a prominent attorney in these parts and recently was a candidate for election to the House of Representatives from his Congressional district. Although Mr. Leibowitz will continue to call the plays in this game in which life is the stake, Mr. Watts is scheduled to do the court room talking.

Knight Will Be Prosecutor.

His adversary will be Thomas E. Knight Jr., now Lieutenant Governor of Alabama, who, as Attorney General of the State, stepped into the case when the Supreme Court first reversed the conviction of the Negroes after his father, a justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, had written the opinion by which that court sustained the verdict of the jury at Scottsboro.

Mr. Knight has had himself appointed a special Deputy Attorney General in order to continue his rôle as prosecutor in the case.

Much of the bitterness exhibited against the defense at former trials is economic in its origin, although race prejudice, sectionalism and politics have played their part. Throughout Alabama it has been said that the Communists have exploited the Scottsboro trials, in which Negroes took an unwonted attitude of asserting their legal rights, for the purpose of promoting the organization of the Share-Croppers Union, which has caused considerable trouble in the cotton fields in the last three years.

One of the major tasks of the defense at this trial will be to demonstrate convincingly its complete divorcement from radical sponsorship.

The antagonism which previously existed in Morgan County against the defense and the defense attorneys led to the filing of a motion for a change of venue to another county. This motion, supported by the affidavit of R. A. Burleson, a National Guard officer and a private investigator, and quoting a dozen townsmen as saying a fair trial was impossible in this community, is to be argued at the opening of court tomorrow.

The persons named in the affidavit of the investigator as having said that the cards were stacked against the Negroes here have all sworn to affidavits for the prosecution, denying the statements attributed to them, and even the attorneys for the defendant concede that the motion probably will be denied. It was filed originally more to protect the record for an appeal than in any hope that it would be granted.

This case which has stirred the South, with its "Negro problem" real or imagined, more deeply than any issue in the past half century, had its origin aboard a freight train bound from Chattanooga to Memphis, Tenn., in 1931. Ruby Bates and Victoria Price were aboard that train when a group of white hoboes became embroiled in a fight with a dozen Negro vagrants and were thrown off the train at Stevenson.

When a posse stopped the train further along the line at Paint Rock, the two white women, who, the defense contends, were in danger of prosecution themselves for vagrancy, accused the Negroes of attacking them.

With a somewhat hysterical atmosphere evident among the public, they were tried and convicted at Scottsboro. The Supreme Court of the United States ordered a new trial on the ground that they had not been adequately represented by counsel. This order came after the I. L. D. had taken up their case.

Then Patterson was tried at Decatur under a change of venue. He was convicted by a jury before Judge Horton who, on the motion of the defense, set aside the verdict of guilty and ordered a new trial. Patterson was tried here again before Judge Callahan two years and two months ago and again convicted, as was Clarence Norris.

The United States Supreme Court ordered a new trial for Norris and directed the Supreme Court of Alabama to allow Patterson another trial by granting an appeal which the Alabama court had rejected on a technicality.

As Patterson's fourth trial was about to open on the birthday anniversary of General Robert E. Lee, the whereabouts of Ruby Bates, the complaining witness who became a star witness for the defense, was undisclosed. Lester Carter, one of the white hoboes who testified for the defense at Patterson's last two trials, arrived in town today with William Richter, an associate of Mr. Leibowitz. He is ready to testify again that the Negroes did not attack the two girls while he was on the train.

ERIE, PA.
TIMES

JAN 28 1936

Alabama Justice

FOR the fourth time, Haywood Patterson, one of the defendants in the famous Scottsboro case, has been convicted of assault, but the sentence this time was 75 years imprisonment instead of the death penalty. Twice the United States Supreme Court has remanded the case for retrial, the first time because the defendants had been deprived of the right to have adequate counsel, and the second time because negroes had been excluded from the jury rolls. Judge Horton of Decatur set one of the convictions aside as being "against the weight of evidence."

The last conviction will probably be appealed on the basis of the prejudice shown by the judge in his charge to the jury in ruling out of proper evidence. It is conceivable that unfairness and prejudice might rule the jury, but it is shocking that a judge, supposed to be motivated only by the ideal of seeing justice served should show such bias.

The Scottsboro case, until justly decided, will continue to plague the state of Alabama as has the Mooney and Billings case in California. Such travesties of justice indicate that we have not traveled far toward freedom and equality.

Nashville, Tenn. Tennessean—M'ng
January 18, 1936

SCOTTSBORO CASE WITNESS IN PEN

The state of Alabama yesterday applied to Gov. Hill McAlister for the "loan" of Luther Hiney, one of the principal witnesses in the famed Scottsboro case, and who is now serving a term for robbery in the Brushy Mountain prison at Petros, Tenn.

In preparation for the reopening of the Scottsboro case against the seven negro youths several times condemned to death, Lieutenant-Governor Thomas E. Knight, Jr. who prosecuted the negro youths wired the governor of Tennessee asking that Hiney be made available as a principal witness.

No prisoner under the name of Luther Hiney is listed in the state prison files, but it is thought that he is probably serving under another name probably Hilliard Henley of Putnam County, serving five years for robbery.

The proper identity of the prisoner will, however, be established if Governor McAlister finds a way to transfer the state prisoner to an adjoining state for the trial without losing jurisdiction of Tennessee in the sentence.

Hiney has been sentenced since the last Scottsboro trial in which he played an important role as a state's witness against the negroes.

Alabama.

Lynchings-1936
6
Legal Punishment for Rape.
6

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
June 10, 1936

31 Alabamians Form Scottsboro Defense Group

Headed By Dr. Henry M. Edmonds And Number Many Prominent Names

Call On State Bar

Files Crenshaw Asked To Obtain Two Lawyers As 9 Negroes' Counsel

Under the leadership of Dr. Henry M. Edmonds, pastor of the Independent Presbyterian Church, of Birmingham, an Alabama Scottsboro committee has been formed with 31 members, many of them of Southwide prominence and has begun functioning to secure Alabama counsel for the defense of the nine negroes, who in March of 1931, by assaulting two white women, placed this State in the world's news where it has been ever since.

Formation of the committee and the progress it has made together with comment by Lieut. Gov. Thomas E. Knight, special prosecutor in the Scottsboro case, became public last night with the release of correspondence signed by Dr. Edmonds, H. Files Crenshaw, president of the Alabama Bar Association; Lieut. Gov. Knight, and others.

The correspondence disclosed that Mr. Crenshaw had been requested to use his offices to secure counsel through the Bar Association. The request was predicated on reports that Samuel Leibowitz, the New York lawyer, had withdrawn from the case. A dispatch from New York, however, quoted Leibowitz as denying his severance from the nine negroes whom he has defended so far with indifferent success.

Waights M. Taylor, of Birmingham, who signed as secretary of the Alabama committee, said that group was "confident that the request for designation of Alabama counsel to assist in the defense will come from the defendants themselves after the withdrawal of Mr. Leibowitz (Samuel Leibowitz, of New York) from the case."

Taylor said, however, in a later paragraph "this committee has nothing to do with the action of Mr. Leibowitz—nor does it intend in any way to influence his action—but the committee does have assurance from other sources that his action will be that which I have mentioned."

Prominent Committee

Mr. Edmonds, pastor of the Birmingham Independent Presbyterian Church, listed former Gov. Thomas E. Kilby, of Anniston; Judge W. H. Tayloe, of Uniontown; F. T. Raiford, Selma publisher; Algernon Blair, Montgomery contractor; Harry M. Ayres, Anniston publisher; Dr. E. T. Belsaw, of Mobile; Dean A. J. Farrar, of the University of Alabama Law School; Dr. W. D. Partlow, superintendent of Alabama Insane Hospitals, and Dr. George H. Denny, president of the University of Alabama, among the 31 members of the committee seeking Alabama counsel for the negroes.

Twenty-two Birmingham residents most of them prominent, were listed as members of the committee also by Mr. Edmonds. They follow:

Forney Johnston, Roderick Beddow, James Chappell, publisher of The Birmingham News and Age Herald; James Mills, editor of The Birmingham Post; W. D. Moore, Morris Newfield, Jere King, Guy E. Snavely, president of Birmingham-Southern College; Harry Denman, John Alexander, A. M. Freeman, William Mitch, Stewart Meacham, Mrs. Jere King, Bishop B. G. Shaw, F. M. M. Richardson, E. W. Taggart, Mrs. Henry C. Bryant, Walter Jones, T. C. Windham the Rev. D. F. Thompson.

Samuel S. Leibowitz, mentioned in the correspondence, has defended the negroes practically throughout their numerous trials since they were taken from a freight train in 1931 near Scottsboro, in Jackson County, and charged with criminal assault upon Victoria Price and Ruby Bates, white women aboard the train.

Haywood Patterson, twice saved from death in the electric chair by the United States Supreme Court, was convicted and sentenced to 75 years imprisonment in February at Decatur, where the cases were moved from Jackson on a change of venue.

If general court procedure is followed, other trials in the "Scottsboro case" will come at the July term of Morgan (Decatur) Circuit Court. No official announcement has been forthcoming, however, on the trials.

Publication of the book, "Scottsboro—Firebrand of Communism," here this week revealed Roy Wright and Ozie Powell, two of the defendants, had been indicted by a Morgan grand jury on charges of assault with intent to murder Sheriff J. S. Sandlin and Deputy Edgar Blalock during their transfer to Birmingham in February.

Deputy Blalock was seriously cut on the throat and Powell was shot by Sheriff Sandlin, but recovered after pieces of a bullet were removed from his skull.

Crenshaw, father of Files Crenshaw, Jr., one of the authors of the Scottsboro book, advised the Birmingham minister and Alabama committee chairman that members of the board of commissioners of the Alabama Bar Association were being asked what action should be taken on his request to select defense counsel.

Bar to Consider Request

The association president said a meeting of the board of commissioners would be called at an early date to consider the request for appointment of Alabama attorneys in the case "if a majority of the board so indicate."

Dr. Allan Chalmers, of New York, chairman of the Scottsboro defense committee (not the Alabama group) was quoted in one of Edmonds's letters as saying that "I hope we can work together on this."

Another excerpt quoted as coming from Dr. Chalmers said: "I would like you advise on where I can help, if at all, in the approach to the Alabama Bar Association and the securing, as soon as possible, of counsel satisfactory to you and us; not only to get them properly acquainted with their responsibilities but also to start the necessary steps for keeping Mr. Leibowitz in the North for the next trials."

Criticising action taken in the "Scottsboro case" previously by ministers, Lieut-Gov. Knight said that "the defendants, to the best of my recollection, have been represented by twenty-one lawyers, part of whom were native Alabamians and the rest of the array of counsel were from the Empire State of New York."

Regarding releasing the Bar Association president's communications with him Knight wrote that "in view of the fact that the letter which was transmitted to me is more or less in its nature public, I am taking the liberty of allowing mine to be used publicly."

Other parts of Knight's letter said in part:

21 Lawyers Already

"Apparently Dr. Edmonds and Mr. Chalmers are working in unison on a committee to secure adequate representation for the defendants in the 'Scottsboro' case. The defendants, to the best of my recollection, have been represented by twenty-one lawyers, part of whom were native Alabamians and the rest of the array of counsel were from the Empire State of New York.

"If my recollection serves me correctly, 120 Grand and petit jurors have passed upon the guilt of each defendant who has been tried . . .

"I understand from the correspondence at hand enclosed in your letetr to me, that the publicity attached to the defense of the defendants was not to be given without the consent of Mr. Chalmers of New York and his committee and was to emanate from New York. The State of Alabama, through me as special prosecutor and during my tenure of office as attorney general, never sought to publicize the State's side of the case. Whatever publicity Dr. Edmonds and Mr. Chalmers of the New York committee desire to give to the defense is a matter of no consequence to me . . ."

In a letter addressed to Mr. Crenshaw, June, 3, Dr. Edmonds said:

"Many Alabama people have long desired to get rid of extraneous agencies and influences in the Scottsboro affair and to have those nine negro boys tried simply on the merits of their case as presented by lawyers from our own State. It now looks as if the way were open.

"We have been invited to form a committee and secure adequate counsel. I wrote Dr. Allan Chalmers, of New York, chairman of the Scottsboro defense committee, composed of eight groups, as follows:

Chalmers Replies

"'To cement Alabama committee, please wire acceptance of the following points:

"'First—This committee is definitely an association of Alabama citizens without organic connection with any other group or organization, North or South.

"'Second—The committee's interest in the Scottsboro case is wholly indigenous, and it is free to express that interest in any way it sees fit.

"'Third—All publicity relative to the committee, even mention of its existence, must emanate from the committee itself.

"'Fourth—Agreement with our plan of issuing a statement over influential signatures, mentioning neither guilt nor innocence but unprejudicial trial.'

"His wire came back:

"'Your letter forwarded to me on speaking trip. I see nothing in it we have right to disagree with. It is your committee. Some publicity is eventually inevitable. I hope we can work together on this. As we move forward, we shall find it more and more to our mutual advantage. Returning to New York next week. If you need further words in this let me know. Cordial regards. — Allen Chalmers . . ."

The nine defendants, including Patterson, are held in Jefferson County Jail at Birmingham pending further developments in their case.

CARMICHAEL TAKES SCOTTSBORO REINS

Congressman Named To Defend Negroes, Dr. Edmonds Announces

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., June 16.—(AP)—Representative A. H. Carmichael, of Tuscumbia, Ala., has been retained as a member of defense counsel for the nine negro defendants in the "Scottsboro case," Dr. Henry M. Edmonds, chairman of the Alabama Scottsboro committee, announced here today.

Representative Carmichael is retiring from Congress at the end of this session to resume his law practice.

Trials of six of the negroes on charges of attacking two white girls, probably will come up in November in the circuit court at Decatur, Ala.

Dr. Edmonds, who heads the Alabama group which recently entered the five-year-old case with a request that the negroes be represented by Alabama attorneys, said the member of Congress agreed to act for the defense in a telephone conversation, but had not started work on evidence.

Clarence Watts, Huntsville, Ala., attorney retained prior to the trial of Haygood Patterson early this year, will remain as a member of defense counsel, Dr. Edmonds said.

Patterson, sentenced to 75 years imprisonment for an alleged assault on Mrs. Victoria Price in 1931, and the other eight defendants, are in jail here.

Employment of Carmichael followed by seven days announcement of the formatiton of the Alabama Scottsboro committee. Dr. Edmonds termed this announcement "unfortunate" and "premature."

Dr. Edmonds is pastor of the fashionable Independent Presbyterian Church here. Other members of the Alabama committee include leaders in business, professional and financial circles from all parts of the State.

Samuel S. Leibowitz, of New York, has been chief of defense counsel in previous trials at Decatur. Whether he will retire fom active participation in the case has not been announced.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
June 12, 1936

Because, justly or not, he shares with Samuel Leibowitz an identificcation with prejudices which make impossible now a fair trial for the Scottsboro Negroes, and a liquidation of the whole hateful affair; because his withdrawal is necessary in many opinions to match the withdrawal being demanded of Leibowitz, and, most of all, because he is an announced candidate for governor and likely by that token to be accused of furthering his own political ambitions in his conduct of a case involving the peace and good name of Alabama—we suggest once more to Lieut. Gov. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., the propriety of withdrawing from the Scottsboro case.

5387

SCOTTSBORO TRIALS
SET FOR NOVEMBER 2

NEW YORK, June-- (CNA) - Trials of six of the nine Scottsboro boys were postponed from mid-July to November 2 by Judge W. W. ("Speed") Callahan, the Scottsboro Defense Committee announced this week.

Crusader News Agency

Samuel S. Leibowtiz remains chief defense counsel for the boys, the Rev. Allan Knight Chalmers, chairman of the committee, said in repudiating an intimation by Lieut-Gov. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., special prosecutor in the case, that Alabama attorneys would head the defense.

6-22-36

New York,

Knight had made public the formation of an Alabama Scottsboro Committee. Touching on that, Mr. Chalmers said:

"The formation of an Alabama Scottsboro Committee to add its strength to the defense of the boys is not in any sense at cross-purposes with our efforts. On the contrary, we most cordially welcome its formation.

"We do not know how it happens that Lieut.Gov. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., special prosecutor, appears to have possession of correspondence between friends of the defense nor by what right he undertakes a premature announcement of the formation of an Alabama committee for the aid of the defendants, but it is to be presumed that Mr. Knight's motives are those of the prosecution.

"We state most emphatically that Mr. Knight shall have no part in determining counsel for the boys whom he has prosecuted for more than five years for a crime of which they are innocent. Samuel S. Leibowitz is chief counsel for the Scottsboro boys and there is no basis for any impression to the contrary."

"That statement speaks for itself," said Mr. Leibowitz at his office when asked for comment. "My status as chief counsel is unchanged."

ANNISTON, ALA.
STAR

JUN 17 1936

The Scottsboro Case

Organization of the Alabama Scottsboro Defense Council, a group of prominent Alabamians determined to bring an end to the five-year-old stigma cast over this commonwealth by the bizarre handling of the charges against nine Negroes, apparently has borne fruit already.

Apparently authentic sources have revealed that Congressman A. H. Carmichael has been retained as defense counsel and the summer trials delayed until November 2 to permit the famous Tennessee Valley attorney to prepare his case.

Now, if Lt. Gov. Thomas E. Knight would completely disassociate himself from the case, it is believed the state and the nation will be assured of justice being performed.

The case is a long one, filled with spectacular events. The original charge, in which nine Negroes were accused of assaulting two white girls on a freight train near Scottsboro, was no more startling than subsequent events.

One of the nine Negroes, Heywood Patterson, was given a 75-year imprisonment sentence at a trial in January, and two of the Negroes were not arraigned, pleading they were juveniles at the time of the alleged assault. Patterson's sentence was appealed.

At the end of the Patterson trial the other cases were continued due to the illness of a key witness. It was at the end of this trial that one of the most startling developments in the long history of the case occurred.

One of the defendants, Ocie Powell, was shot and seriously wounded by Sheriff J. Street Sandlin when he and two others attempted to escape while Sandlin was bringing them to jail here from Decatur. A deputy sheriff, Edgar Blalock was cut in the attempt, but was not seriously wounded. Powell recovered after several weeks in a hospital here.

The addition of Congressman Carmichael to the defense staff presupposes that New York's Samuel Leibowitz will not muddy the waters again. Mr. Knight, now an avowed candidate for Governor, could do the state no greater service than to turn his files over to competent prosecutors. Both the names of Mr. Leibowitz and Mr. Knight are associated with the less pleasant aspects of the case in the minds of people and if a complete new approach can be made possibly the case can be settled once and for all to the satisfaction of every person interested in seeing justice done.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
STATES

JUN 18 1936

Scottsboro Case

WHAT impresses us as a wise move is reported in the matter of the new trial of the Scottsboro negro boys who have twice been saved from death by the United States supreme court for the alleged assault on two white women of shady reputation on a freight train on which all were traveling several years ago.

In previous trials certain organizations in the East, particularly inimical to the South undertook to assume control of the defense and to send criminal lawyers from the North with chips on their shoulders to appear for the defendants. These attorneys rubbed the hair the wrong way and created deep resentment among the people of Alabama by their attitude.

This had the effect of prejudicing the Alabama jurors drawn for the trials, stirred by an Alabama sentiment that alien organizations were seeking to block the orderly administration of justice in that state. It was repeatedly said that if these outsiders had kept out their oars substantial justice would have been done.

* * *

NOW it is announced that no more SAMUEL LEIBOWITZES are to be sent to Alabama to inflame its people, but that the defense of the accused is to be entrusted to the Scottsboro committee, composed of 31 of the state's leading white citizens, and that the committee has engaged an all-Alabama legal defense counsel to defend the prisoners in an effort to bring to a final and fair end the famous assault case.

The fact that an honorable Alabama judge set aside one verdict that condemned the accused to the gallows and that in a subsequent trial a jury voted imprisonment for one of the accused who twice before had been condemned to death makes it not improbable that under the handling of Alabama lawyers the verdict in these cases will at least call for less than capital punishment if guilt of the accused is established.

Incidentally, the presiding judge, as a result of this new development, has put off the new trials until November, which is significant.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.
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X

Alabama.

5388

NEW YORK TIMES

JAN 22 1936

SCOTTSBORO JUDGE IS ACCUSED OF BIAS

Negro's Counsel Allege Comments From Bench Make Just Verdict Impossible.

MISTRIAL MOTION REFUSED

Patterson Case Is Likely to Go Today to Jury, Devoid of Negroes.

By F. RAYMOND DANIELL.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DECATUR, Ala., Jan. 21.—Less than five hours after a jury of white farmers had been chosen to try Haywood Patterson, a Negro, for rape of a white woman, his lawyers moved for a mistrial today, accusing Judge William W. Callahan of infecting the jurors with the same bias and prejudice which they charged him with showing.

C. L. Watts, a Southern lawyer brought into the Scottsboro case by Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief counsel for the defense, accused Judge Callahan of making it impossible for Patterson to receive a fair and impartial verdict from a jury which had heard his comments from the bench and seen his "irritable" and "impatient" attitude toward the defense.

Defense Taken Unawares.

From that time on Judge Callahan made fewer comments of the type to which the defense had objected. Soon afterward, however, Lieut. Gov. Thomas E. Knight Jr., special prosecutor, rested the State's case. Mr. Watts protested that after the nine-hour session in the fetid courtroom he was unable to go on and properly protect his client.

Somewhat testily, Judge Callahan brushed the attorney's plea aside and insisted that the trial must go on. It was then five minutes past 5. When Mr. Watts explained that the sudden resting of the State's case had caught him unawares, so that he had no witnesses available except the defendant, Judge Callahan accused him of failing to exercise "proper diligence" in getting his witnesses to court.

Then Judge Callahan directed Mr. Watts to place Patterson on the witness stand, despite the protest of the attorney that he did not want to call the man whose life is at stake in this drama of politics, ambition and prejudice, until other witnesses had prepared the way with testimony.

Patterson was not long upon the stand, however, for after a few questions had been put to him, another witness appeared and was allowed to take his place.

The dramatic move of the defense, which may provide a peg on which to hinge another appeal to higher courts which three times have saved Patterson from execution in the electric chair, came soon after the State, through the testimony of a guard at Kilby prison, succeeded in getting on the record, an alleged oral "confession," from the gawky Negro.

New Confession Alleged.

After Victoria Price, the complainant in the case, had told her story for the eighth time before a jury, Obie Golden, a sleek, dark-haired young man in a neat blue serge suit, was called to relate the strange story of how Patterson confessed to him while his appeal from his last conviction was pending in the Supreme Court.

The State tried once before to get a "confession" on the record by calling a white inmate of Kilby prison to the stand but that effort was balked by Judge James E. Horton, who presided at that trial. Today, however, Judge Callahan, over the objection of the defense, let Golden, the prison guard, tell his story to the jury after first hearing it in their absence.

Golden said that "sometime between Nov. 20 and Nov. 25, 1934," Patterson hailed him from his death-house cell while the guard was making his hourly inspection about 8:15 P. M. Patterson asked him to call the warden, Golden said. The guard explained to Patterson that the warden would not be available until the next morning at 6:30, but according to him, Patterson blurted out a confession then and there.

As near as he could remember, Golden testified, the Negro said "I'm guilty of the crime—also Clarence Norris (another defendant) and them other seven up at Birmingham. What can you do for me?"

About that time, Golden said, Norris, in an adjoining cell, overheard Patterson's remarks and accused him of lying.

Golden said he had not reported the incident to Mr. Knight and had never spoken to the Lieutenant Governor until last Saturday, when he was told he would be a witness. It never occurred to him to make any written note or record of Patterson's alleged statement.

When the trial reopened today the five Negroes who remained on the panel of 100 when the peremptory striking of names began were all eliminated by the State, so that the jury, as finally selected, consisted entirely of white men. Morgan County had conformed to the letter of the law against exclusion of Negroes from jury service and still barred Negroes from actually serving on a jury.

Mrs. Price was allowed to say that Ruby Bates, who recanted her charge of rape against the Negroes, was with her and that the two of them "bummed" their way to Chattanooga and back on freight trains.

Judge Callahan refused to let the defense inquire further. He shut off as "immaterial" answers to questions about what companions the girls had on their hoboing expedition, what they did in Chattanooga and virtually everything else upon which the defense relies. Judge Callahan holds that under Alabama law it makes no difference whether the complainant in the case is of doubtful virtue.

Mr. Watts, in cross-examination, succeeded in developing several contradictions of the woman's earlier testimony regarding the number of Negroes who struck her and the extent of the visible injuries she received on the train.

Court Scorns Evidence.

The State then called a string of farmers to describe the fighting they had seen aboard the freight train. Under cross-examination they all placed Mrs. Price beside a car far from the one in which she declares the attack took place.

Mr. Leibowitz sought to have a witness indicate which car was referred to by pointing out one of a toy train before the jury. This train, which was used in all other trials held here, was an exact reproduction of the one on which the alleged attack took place, but Judge Callahan had refused to accept it in evidence earlier on the ground that there was no proof that it was arranged in the same order as the real one.

"It won't help any one to see anything," he had said. "It will just delay things more and add another delay to the trial."

R. S. Turner, conductor of the real train, testified that the model was an exact reproduction. Judge Callahan was not satisfied, however, and with a series of confusing questions tried unsuccessfully to trip him up.

In an attempt to establish the exact position of the two white women in relation to where the Negroes were found, Mr. Leibowitz asked the conductor a question about the average length of the freight cars. Judge Callahan, who earlier in the day had interposed an objection on his own account and sustained it, although the State made no objection, cut short the examination.

"That strikes me as enough of that," he said. "We are magnifying things that are not particularly important."

"If the court please, we except to that," said Mr. Watts, who had to repeat the statement three times before Judge Callahan indicated that he had the faintest notion of what the lawyer meant. Soon after that Mr. Leibowitz asked for a recess and invited the judge, the opposing lawyers and his colleagues to a conference in a witness room.

Mistrial Motion Refused.

Judge Callahan looked sizzling mad when he came back. Mr. Watts in a voice hardly audible said:

"On behalf of the defendant, I now move for a mistrial on matters already stated in court to which exception was taken."

"You mean what has transpired—the attitude of the court?" demanded the judge.

Mr. Watts said he meant exactly that.

"I must confess that I can't see anything that I've done that's wrong," said Judge Callahan, "but if there is anything I've done that's wrong I'll try to rectify it. I think you will have to be more specific about it though. I am entitled to that much consideration."

Mr. Watts explained that he felt that comments of the court "tending to minimize the importance of evidence offered for the defendant," had made a fair trial before this jury impossible. The defense attorney went on to say that Judge Callahan by his "irritable" and "impatient" manner, his repeated comments to the effect that defense counsel were "trifling and wasting time," were all calculated to prejudice the jury.

"I haven't been irritable," said Judge Callahan, "and if I've made any such statements as that I didn't know it. If I've made any mistakes I'll rectify them."

"The record contains many instances of the type of thing to which I refer," replied Mr. Watts.

"Well, we'll stand on the record, then," retorted Judge Callahan, denying the motion and telling the jurors not to concern themselves with anything but the evidence in the case.

If he had made any mistakes, he told them, they could be corrected in the Appellate Courts. He went on to say that Mr. Leibowitz's questions were designed to contradict Victoria Price. The court held she already had been contradicted.

This brought an objection from Melvin Hutson, Solicitor for Morgan County, who protested that the question of whether she had been contradicted or not was one for the jury to decide. Judge Callahan said he probably should not have said that and added that he meant the effort at contradiction had been pursued to its logical limit.

It was indicated as court adjourned that Patterson's case would go to the jury tomorrow. The trial of Clarence Norris is scheduled to open Thursday.

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

JAN 21 193

SCOTTSBORO YOUTH'S 4TH TRIAL STARTS

Decatur, Ala., Jan. 20 (AP).—For a fourth time Heywood Patterson, one of the nine colored defendants in the Scotsboro case was called to trial today amidst a tangle of legal skirmishing on a charge of attacking a white woman.

Five colored men were in the regular panel of thirty-five jurors called to be sworn. In addition, a special venire of sixty-five has been called.

Change of Venue Denied.

The fourth trial for the defendant, who three times has heard the death sentence pronounced on him, began in mid-afternoon, after

Haywood Patterson **Victoria Price**

Scottsboro case figures.

Judge W. W. Callahan, presiding in Morgan Circuit Court, had denied a motion for a change of venue.

Of the twelve colored men drawn in the panel of ~~100, seven~~ were excused during the qualifying of forty-eight jurors. Three claimed opposition to capital punishment; one was a physician, another a school teacher, and two were above the maximum age.

Saved by Supreme Court.

Patterson and the other eight defendants were reindicted at Scottsboro last Nov. 13, on two counts each, charging attacks on Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates on a freight train in Jackson County, March 25, 1931.

The United States Supreme Court twice saved Patterson from execution, and Judge James E. Horton, who presided at his first trial here in 1933, set the second verdict aside.

Fayette, Ala., Banner
January 23, 1936

Another move for a change of venue for the trials of nine Negroes in the "Scottsboro case" was made as attorneys filed petitions for a change of venue from Morgan to Jefferson "or such other county as may be just and proper."

TUCSON, ARIZ.
STAR

JAN 1 0 1936

THE SCOTTSBORO CASE

Once more the Scottsboro boys are to go on trial. Accused of attacking two women, these boys have been convicted twice and sentenced to death only to have their cases reversed by the supreme court.

The case of these boys carries in it two important factors of current American life. Had it not been for the supreme court sitting in Washington, these boys would have been executed long ago. The supreme court by its two reversals has made mandatory a fair trial. It has stood as a bulwark protecting these almost friendless boys from condemnation by unjust trial. The court has invoked the constitution of the United States as a protection against hasty, unfair, and ill-considered justice. In asserting this protection for these ~~Negro~~ boys it has established a safeguard for every other citizen in the country.

The second factor is a psychological one. As a means of arousing racial hatred, of enhancing their cause among the Negroes of the country and particularly of the South, professional Communists have seized this case to exploit as a political issue. Their loud and belligerent threats made it a political issue. Communism rather than the six boys went on trial. The juries in each trial returned a verdict of guilty, but this was a verdict against Communism rather than against the boys. When either Communism or Fascism is made the issue, juries and the people wil vote against either.

This case resembles, in some respects, the vote of the people of Arkansas a few years ago on the question of a "monkey law" with the matter of evolution involved. Some professional atheists came to Arkansas to defeat the proposed law. Immediately the question was turned into one of deciding whether there was a God or not. The people voted that they believed there was a God. Thus the intrusion of a psychological factor entirely beclouded the real issue.

The Scottsboro case has been turned into a trial of Communism. Although the Communists have ostensibly withdrawn from the case, still their former interference lingers as a psychological factor. The jury of the Alabamans may still feel in their minds that saving the lives of the boys, if not freeing them, may be seized upon by the Communists as a victory for Communism. That feeling has been evident in the two trials held so far. If it does not prevail in the coming trial, it will be due to the protection the supreme court has given, the admonishment it has given to courts everywhere by its stand in this case.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
RECORD

JAN 21 1936

The Scottsboro Mess Again

The nauseous Scottsboro case opens again today.

The State of Alabama and a Negro, Haywood Patterson, will go on trial ~~together.~~

Presumably, the Supreme Court's ruling that Negroes must not be systematically excluded from the jury list will be obeyed. But even if a Negro actually sits on the jury, it is doubtful if one can be found in Decatur, Alabama, who would dare vote "not guilty" in the presence of white fellow-townsmen.

Race prejudice has run so high in Decatur during the five years since the case opened that one innocent Negro has been lynched there. Not a Decatur lawyer will take the defense case. Not a Decatur physician will take the stand to give important medical testimony necessary to the defense case.

For that, the defense must rely, as it has in the past, on admissions by the State's own medical witness and on a medical authority from outside the State.

If ever a change of venue was justified, it is in this case. Not merely a change to another hate-frenzied Alabama town, but to the relatively tolerant city of Birmingham, where an approach to a fair trial would be possible.

There are doubtless thousands of Alabamans who really believe the defendants guilty, in spite of the obvious weakness of the State's case. Why should they object—why should the State's lawyers object—to a transfer to Birmingham? If the accused are guilty, can't they depend on a Birmingham jury to find them guilty?

The chief prosecutor, Thomas E. Knight, Jr., has shamelessly turned the case into political capital for himself and is now Lieutenant Governor of Alabama. He will remain as head of the prosecution. Will Knight relent sufficiently to allow the case to be tried in Birmingham?

Or does he aspire to be Governor?

BROOKLYN, N. Y.
TIMES UNION

JAN 25 193

The Scottsboro Verdict.

For the fourth time, Harvey Patterson Negro, has been convicted in an Alabama court of assaulting two white women in a Southern Pacific Railroad car four years ago. Half a dozen other Negroes have been held on the same charge. Two of the Patterson convictions have been set aside by the United States Supreme Court, one on the ground that the prisoner was not adequately represented by counsel appointed by the court to defend him, and the other because there was no Negro representation on the jury that convicted the man. The third conviction was set aside by the presiding Justice.

In the present instance the jury was more liberal and tolerant than its predecessors. It fixed the punishment at seventy-five years' imprisonment, instead of death as before. Nevertheless, the fight to establish the reign of law in Alabama will go on. Negroes were not allowed to serve on the jury that tried Patterson the fourth time. Their elimination was not effected by force, but the objections of the State prosecutor effectually disposed of all colored men when the jury box was being filled. Twelve men, mostly farmers, imbued with the Alabama spirit that the Negro "has no rights that a white man is bound to respect" tried the case. As Patterson was led from the courtroom to serve the sentence imposed on him by the jury, Collins, another Negro prisoner accused of complicity in the same crime, was led in for trial before another jury equally susceptible to the anti-Negro sentiment that prevails in the State.

A committee to defend primal, human rights in Alabama, and specifically to care for the interests of Patterson and the other Negro prisoners in Scottsboro, is functioning in this city. Its head is the Rev. Allen K. Chalmers of the Broadway Tabernacle, and all patriotic Americans should sustain and strengthen such a worthy object.

Arkansas.

5389

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

ARKANSAS WOMEN ASK PROBE INTO LYNCHING

Constitution 5-6-36 Atlanta, Ga.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., May 5.—(AP)—A demand upon Governor Futrel for an immediate and thorough investigation into Arkansas' first lynching in three years, came today from the Arkansas council, Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

The council also wrote Sheriff J. D. Dubard, of [illegible] county, where the negro was [illegible] last week, asking an inquiry into the affair.

Arrested for an attempted attack upon a white woman, the 19-year-old negro was taken from the Lepanto city marshal by a masked mob and shot to death on the outskirts of the eastern Arkansas town.

NEGROES FIGHT TO LIVE

Blytheville Pair Seeks Habeas Corpus Through Federal Court

LITTLE ROCK, Dec. [illegible]—The plea of two Blytheville negroes, Jim X. Carruthers and Bubbles Clayton, to escape the electric chair through a habeas corpus petition, will be heard Thursday in federal court by Judge Martineau.

The negroes, now in the death house at Tucker Farm, claim they were refused a change of venue for trial, that no negroes were on the grand jury which returned the indictments against them, or on the petit jury panel from from which was drawn the jury that convicted them of rape, and that they were convicted under fear of mob violence.

MOB LAW CASE IN ARKANSAS TO U. S. COURT

Case

Seek Habeas Corpus Writ For Men Under Death Sentence

12-11-36

Chicago Defender

LITTLE ROCK. —Judge John E. Martineau, the federal judge in whose court room two weeks ago Paul D. Peacher was found guilty of holding eight Negroes in slavery, was scheduled to hear Thursday [illegible] application for a writ of habeas corpus for two men under death sentence in a mob law case.

The condemned men, Bubbles Clayton, 22, and Jim X. Carruthers, 20, who were convicted in April, 1935, in Blytheville on a charge of criminal assault on a woman, based their appeal to the United States district court on the charge that the court which convicted them was influenced by mob spirit and that thus they were deprived of the "equal protection of the laws" as guaranteed in the constitution.

The appeal says further that the men were victims of miscarriage of justice similar to that in /the famous Scottsboro case.

Refused Retrial

The habeas corpus application for Clayton and Carruthers is sponsored by the N.A.A.C.P., the International Labor Defense and individuals interested in the case.

The Arkansas state supreme court refused to grant the two men a retrial. The petition seeking a federal writ of habeas corpus sets out that the conviction of Clayton and Carruthers was "a result of inflamed public mind and of mob domination." That the defendants were denied a fair trial because no Negroes were on the jury also was a point brought out in the petition. The population of Mississippi county in which the two were convicted is one-third Negro.

It is further charged that it was impossible for the defense attorney appointed by the court to otbain a change of venue because he could not obtain the necessary affidavits in the mob-influenced community.

The attorney appointed by the court was Arthur L. Adams of Jonesboro who has signed an affidavit in the federal case saying that "local feeling against the accused was intense and it would be difficult, if not impossible, to select a jury at that place qualified under the law to try the case." He said that he was not able to confer with Clayton and Carruthers until a few days before the trial began on April 8, 1935. The next day, the two were convicted and sentenced to die.

White Man Signs

In Arkansas, two supporting affidavits must be obtained to file an application for a change of venue. Adams said he could find only one white man, J. R. Goodwin, who signed one and later wanted to withdraw his name when he learned what the sentiment throughout the community was.

In the federal court petition, affidavits have been secured from Goodwin and six other white citizens. Their affidavits said, "It was impossible to get a local attorney to defend these Negroes because of the inflammatory state of public opinion and the domination of mob spirit.

"It was dangerous," the affidavits continue, "for a white man to express an opinion in favor of the innocence of the accused and still more dangerous for a Negro to be found sympathising or participating in any of the affairs connected with the trial." Several Negro residents also signed affidavits, some of them dentists, clergymen and doctors.

Clayton and Carruthers are prisoners at the Tucker Farm institution near here. They were granted a stay of execution pending the outcome of this hearing.

Judge Tells Defense Of Boys In "Mob Law Conviction" To Fight

World 12-16-36
Atlanta, Ga.

RECOMMENDS PETITIONS TO CO., STATE AND FEDERAL COURTS IN ATTEMPTS FOR TRIAL JUSTICE

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.,—(ANP)—Jim X. Carruthers, 20, and Bubbles Clayton, 22, principals in this state's "Little Scottsboro case," obtained additional respite from their death sentences Friday when Federal Judge Martineau, who heard the recent slavery case at Jonesboro, continued their application for a writ of habeas corpus to permit them to exhaust available remedies in state courts before presenting arguments on their federal court petition.

The two youths were convicted more than 18 months ago of criminally assaulting a white woman early in 1935. The death sentence was imposed in the Mississippi county circuit court May 17, 1935, and affirmed by the state supreme court of November 18 of that year. A motion for rehearing was denied last January 20. A new date for execution was to have been set but the federal court assumed jurisdiction May 14, a hearing was held June 8 and continued to last week.

The defense, led by Attorneys Scipio Jones and John A. Hibbler of Little Rock, and Charles H. Houston of the NAACP national office, contend that mob domination and inflamed public opinion were influencing factors in the conviction, and failure to include Negroes on the grand and trial juries was contrary to the constitution.

These charges will be contained in a petition for a writ of error coram nobis to be filed in the Mississippi county circuit court immediately and if necessary to the state supreme court. Judge Martineau said that if these writs are not granted, then the case should be brought into federal court. Defense lawyers said they would carry it to the U. S. supreme court if need be.

It was charged that at the trial, feeling was so intense in that section it was dangerous for a white man to express an opinion in favor of the innocence of the youths and still more dangerous for a Negro to be found sympathizing or participating in any of the affairs connected with the trial.

Lynchings-1938
6

Legal Punishment for Rape
6

Georgia
6

5323

ROZIER MUST DIE FOR GIRL ATTACK

Prison Board Refuses Clemency; Thomas Pays Today.

The State Prison and Parole Commission yesterday declined to recommend executive clemency for Levy L. Rozier, young farmer sentenced to death for criminal assault on a 7-year-old Waycross girl.

The last of several respites has expired and the next step in the case is resentencing.

George Thomas, Atlanta negro, is scheduled to be electrocuted at Tattnall prison near Reidsville today for the rifle range slaying of C. Gordon Haston here March 26. Haston, a salesman, was a former resident of Albany.

No requests came for clemency for Thomas.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.
6

Georgia.

5326

NEGRO ELECTROCUTED FOR COLUMBUS CRIME

4-11-36

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., April 10. (AP)—Hamp McLemore, Columbus negro, convicted of assaulting a young white girl, went to his death in the electric chair at state prison today, shortly after he confessed, "I'm guilty."

Superintendent Rollie Lawrence said McLemore went quietly and calmly into the death chamber.

"He made no statement in the chair, but an hour or so before he went there, he confessed," the superintendent said.

The man had twice been convicted of the crime, which occurred on a golf course near Columbus. His first death sentence was set aside by the state supreme court, and he was retried and again sentenced to die.

GRAND JURY SCORES CONDITIONS AT PARKS

Negro Held in Child's Attack Given Too Many Liberties, Probers Find.

The Fulton county grand jury yesterday recommended an investigation of all public parks and other places of recreation both inside and outside the limits of the city of Atlanta to ascertain whether desirable conditions exist. Special presentments were released during the afternoon.

Text of the presentments follow:

"We, the undersigned members of the jury, who heard the evidence and passed on the case of the state vs. Will Wright (colored) charged with the offense of rape, said rape having been committed on a young white girl only 12 years of age and said offense having occurred in Grant park, one of the public parks of the city of Atlanta, wish to offer the following resolution, to wit:

"Resolved, that, according to the evidence brought out at this trial it is clearly evident that the defendant, Will Wright, was accorded far greater privileges than should have been given to him in that he was permitted to carry keys to practically all the buildings at the park, that he in the performance of his duties was thrown with white children of all ages and walks of life and had the opportunity to commit the crime of which he was charged, which opportunity would not have arisen had the position been in the hands of a capable, honest and reliable white man of good character both as to the position occupied but in the community in which he lived;

"We further deplore the fact that evidence brought out at this trial indicated strongly that this defendant had financial as well as moral backing of certain employes connected with the government of our city;

"We further feel that an investigation should be made by the grand jury of this county covering all the public parks and other places of recreation both inside and outside of the city limits and that such recommendations as may be necessary be made to see that proper safeguards are placed at all such places to protect to the fullest extent the children of our fair city and conty. We also feel that a special investigation should be made by the grand jury as to why the condition existed at Grant park able solicitor general and his assistants in the handling of this case."

"In closing we wish to commend our able solicitor general and his assistants in the handling of this case."

NEGRO IS SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR ATTACK

Will Wright, negro, must die in the electric chair at Milledgeville on July 10 for [illegible], a jury in Judge James C. Davis' division of Fulton county superior court decided yesterday.

Defense attorneys filed a motion for a new trial, and Judge Davis said he would hear the motion on June 25. Judge Davis is sitting as a visiting judge in Fulton county. He presides over the Stone Mountain superior court circuit.

NEGRO IS DENIED APPEAL BY COURT

Telegraph

Willie Frank Cato Must Die for Assaulting White Woman in Warren County

11-12-36

ATLANTA, Nov. 11 (AP).—The Georgia supreme court affirmed today the death sentence assessed Willie Frank Cato, Warren county Negro, convicted of criminally assaulting a white woman.

A new trial, asked because of an outcry of a spectator, was denied.

The trial judge warned women at the trial of the nature of the case and allowed them time to retire. One woman arose and said:

"I am a member of an organization for the protection of the white race, one and one half million strong, and for that reason I wish to remain in the court room."

The case was appealed on the grounds that this statement was prejudicial to the defendant, but the court ruled that the trial judge told the jury to ignore the remark and reprimanded the speaker.

The court also affirmed the death sentence of Wilson Spikes, jointly indicted with Mrs. Paul Hargraves for the slaying of Paul Hargraves in a Ware county rural triangle.

Spikes was convicted largely on testimony of a 15 year old boy who swore he saw Spikes hiding behind some bushes with a shotgun shortly before Hargraves was shot.

The record also showed testimony of a school teacher who passed the Hargraves home ten times a week. The evidence was that different colored clothes hung on the front porch every day as a signal to Spikes whether or not Hargraves was at home. The record also showed an alleged confussion of relations with the woman made by Spikes to a neighborhood minister.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Indiana

5390

Alleged Rapist Given 5 To 21 Year Sentence

East Tennessee

Muncie Organizations Back Move To Raise Funds To Finance Appeal

2-6-36

CALL TRIAL UNFAIR

Colored Man On Jury; Believes Testimony of White Woman

Knoxville,

MUNCIE, Ind., ~~Recorder~~ News Bureau—The State won the first round of a bitter fight when a jury which included one colored man returned a verdict of guilty of rape of a white woman, in the first degree against James Brown, alias George Brooks, late Wednesday afternoon in Circuit Court.

Brown, after hearing Judge L. A. Guthrie pronounce a sentence of five to twenty five years in the state prison at Michigan City thru his attorney, George R. Brawley announced that an appeal would be taken.

The accused, a tall, light complexioned, good looking man of twenty six years, was obviously stunned as the verdict of guilty was announced. Many of the colored spectators who had attended the trial and watched the proceedings closely since the beginning of Monday, appeared by the expressions on their faces to share the feelings of the prisoner. Because of the charge that prejudice had stimulated the bitterness with which the trial was fought, the crowd of colored and white spectators were sharply divided along racial lines.

Identified By Voice

Brown was charged with the rape of Mrs. Ethel Harper, a white woman, living at 1514 Russey St., the mother of six children. On the witness stand the woman testified that she had been attacked November 21 last year late in the evening while on her way home from church. Several days later, she identified Brown by his voice, she said, when officers brought him before her. Because of poor light, she said she did not see the features of her attacker except to note he was very light and colored.

Attorney Brawley fought vigorously to impeach the woman's testimony, but every effort was successfully rebuffed. Objections raised by the Prosecuting Attorney Clarence Higi and sustained by Judge Guthrie, blocked the presentation of evidence by Brawley to prove that Brown, was in the local transient camp during the entire night of the alleged attack and that the woman had, previous to her identification of Brown, identified another colored man who was released after proving an ironclad alibi.

Brown, through his attorney was refused the opportunity to test the woman's ability to identify the defendant's voice.

Call Trial Unfair

Charging that the trial was grossly unfair and a travesty on justice, leaders in the fight to secure a fair trial for the accused man, said the appeal would show that during the trial in which Brown was found guilty, no testimony was ever offered by police or any one else to prove, that the white woman had ever identified Brown, or that Brown had ever left the transient camp on the night of the alleged attack; or that the woman was raped or attacked on the night as claimed No physician's testimony was offered to prove the crime, it is charged.

Since his arrest the day following the alleged attack, Brown has been held at the state Reformatory for safe-keepingx, except during the arraignment and trial. His home is in Washington, D. C.

Anderson Blair, the colored man on the jury composed of ten white men and one white woman, declared after the trial he was convinced after presentation of all of the evidence that Brown was guilty.

Lynchings-1936

Legal Punishment for Rape

Kentucky

5391

CITIZENS TO DRESS UP FOR EXECUTION

Defender

10,000 Seats Provided Spectators For July 31

7-18-36

(Kentucky Citizens Probing Conviction of Prisoner—see story on Page [illegible])

OWENSBORO, Ky., July 17.—This backward little town in the heart of the Blue Grass region is preparing for a Roman holiday July 31, the day set for the hanging of 22-year-old Rainey Bethea, convicted on a charge of attacking a middle-aged white woman.

Just how Owensboro and Kentucky feel about the matter is contained in a signed article under the caption "Under Protest" of Molly Clowes in the Louisville Herald-Post, July 9. It reads as follows:

"To at least three qualities possessed by her sons and daughters of Livingstone and Daviess counties can Kentucky point with pride. They are vision, a stern sense of duty and a stalwart adherence to the traditions of the past . . . even to traditions which more squeamish communities long ago discarded as barbaric.

Took Vision To See Value

"It took vision to see the commercial and publicity possibilities of legalized lynching for convicted rapists, as tried out experimentally last year at the DeBoe hanging in Smithland. The same vision, amplified by the stern devotion to duty of a woman sheriff, is about to put Owensboro on the national map as the scene of the proposed hanging, before 10,000 spectators, of a Negro convicted of an attack upon the elderly Mrs. Elza Edwards, of Owensboro.

"The Negro choked Mrs. Edwards to death after [illegible] her. Of the two charges it would seem that murder would be slightly graver [illegible] than criminal assault. But murder carries as a penalty a comparatively unspectacular death in the electric chair at Eddyville. It is only for conviction on the charge of criminal assault that [illegible] hang a man in the county in which the crime was committed.

"The prosecutors were aided throughout in their deliberations by Mrs. Florence Thompson, Daviess county sheriff, whose fanatic devotion to duty led her to assure them loudly on every possible occasion not to be swayed by the fact that she was a poor weak woman.

To Do It Handsomely

"They were not swayed. Neither was Mrs. Thompson to be dissuaded from her heroism. Learning from the Smithland spectacle that any number of persons apparently are prepared to pay championship prices for the privilege of watching a man jerk to death at the end of a rope, Owensboro is prepared to do the thing handsomely.

"A lack of accommodation incommoded many of the spectators at the DeBoe hanging. In some cases persons actually were forced to climb trees for a better view. Owensboro is providing sightseeing space in the city garage, which is to be the scene of the ceremony. At least 7,500 more can be accommodated "comfortably" in the street outside, according to officials.

"Daviess county officials rushed the Negro to Louisville immediately his sentence was passed, to avoid the possibility of mob violence. This was a commendable precaution, since there is no possible comparison between the publicity and cash value of a lynching arranged on the spur of the moment and participated in anonymously by all sorts of rabble, and a hanging invested with the full majesty of the law, well publicised in advance and conducted with the personal supervision of a female martyr to duty who will, no doubt purely in the interests of justice, permit her photograph to be taken in the act of springing the trap.

Smithland Sowed Way

"Smithland sowed the way. And Owensboro, as an up-and-coming municipality, is quick to profit by and improve on the original entertainment. Other Kentucky towns probably will follow suit in short order, before other envious Southern communities take the edge off the novelty by building arenas complete with robed choirs to sing "Nearer, My God, to Thee," as the trap is spring.

"Or before some hysterical and mean-spirited citizen manages to raise racket enough to get Kentucky's public hanging law repealed."

Crowds Gather To Watch Woman Sheriff Execute Condemned Negro

OWENSBORO, KY., Aug. 13.—(AP)—The crowd that will gather to see Rainey Bethea hanged at sunrise tomorrow may not know until the hangman grasps the gallows trigger whether plump, middle-aged Sheriff Florence Thompson will put the 22-year-old negro ravisher to death.

Mrs. Thompson, as Daviess County's chief peace officer, is charged by Kentucky law with responsibility for executing the death sentence. She has received hundreds of letters, telegrams and telephone calls. Some said a woman should not perform such a duty. Others urged that a woman should perform her duty.

She revealed today she had consulted her priest—she is a Catholic—and also had consulted several Protestant ministers. All the clergymen, she declared, had assured her the death sentence in this case was sanctioned by the laws of God and man.

People from out of town poured in, automobiles from other states rolled through the streets of this town of 25,000, and concession stands sprang up to serve those who would wait all night for a vantage point around the vacant lot that holds the gallows. Mrs. Thompson made all arrangements without revealing them. Strained and tense, but outwardly calm, she continued to give non-committal replies to inquiries.

"Yes, I have made up my mind who will perform the execution, but I shall make no announcement," said she. "Nobody will know until the time comes. Why should I reveal my plans?" She could authorize a man to spring the trap but she would not even say whether she would attend the hanging and be legally in charge of the first public execution in Daviess County's 150 years of history.

Bethea was accused of assaulting, robbing and murdering 70-year-old Mrs. Elza Edwards, a well-to-do widow, a month ago. He was indicted, tried and convicted on the assault charge. Kentucky law provides hanging in the county where the crime occurred in rape cases.

The negro has been held in Louisville for safe keeping and was expected to be brought here shortly before time for hanging tomorrow by Deputies Albert Reice and L. I. Dishman. He confessed at his trial here but repudiated that later and vainly sought a stay in Federal court.

"He will mount the scaffold at twelve minutes after five," Mrs. Thompson said late today. "That is the official time of sunrise, the earliest moment the law allows Bethea to be hanged."

Mrs. Thompson said she would observe the old Kentucky custom and allow Bethea to have "his say," if he wished to address the crowd estimated at 10,000 that is expected to gather around the lot.

Reminded that in 1935 Willie Deboe spoke for an hour before his execution at Smithland, Ky., and engaged in an argument with the woman he was convicted of attacking, Mrs. Thompson explained she meant "within reason" when she said Bethea might talk.

Festive Kentucky Crowd Sees Negro Put to Death

Former Policeman Springs Trap Instead of Woman Sheriff Before 10,000

SHERIFF THOMPSON

OWENSBORO, Ky., Aug. 14 (AP)—A crowd of 10,000 white persons—some jeering, others festive, but generally orderly—watched a prayerful Negro put to death today on Daviess county's "pit and gallows," authorized by Kentucky law for the hanging of a convicted rapist.

The county's matronly, plump sheriff, Mrs. Florence Thompson, saw to it the court's sentence that Rainey Beathea, 22, Negro, "be hanged by the neck until dead" for the assault-murder of a 70-year-old white woman, was carried out. She did not appear publicly, however, before the milling throng in the three-acre lot, scene of the first public hanging in the county's history. Arthur L. Hash, former Louisville policeman, sprung the trap, dropping the stocky Negro to death in the pit of the double-deck gallows.

Despite precautions of county officials who placed a cordon of guards about the scaffold, a few persons near the gallows grabbed bits of the hood as souvenirs after two physicians pronounced Bethea dead from a cleanly broken neck.

Before being brought here early today from a Louisville jail where he was held for safekeeping Bethea penciled a note to a sister, Ora Fladger, of Nichols, S. C., saying he was "saved." Authorities did not grant a request in the note that his body be sent there. Instead he was buried in a pauper's grave here after services ta St. Stephen's Catholic church. Bethea embraced the Catholic faith while in jail at Louisville.

Approximately 16 years ago the state legislature passed a law providing hanging as the penalty for rape following a wave of crimes in the state.

The statute made it optional with county officials whether the hanging be public or private. Officials here decided upon a public hanging without announcing their reasons.

Macon, [illegible] 3c
Telegraph
[illegible]

Morbid Curiosity at Worst

It is a gruesome story told by press dispatches as to the hanging of the Negro, Rainey Beathea, at Owensboro, Ky. It seems that under the Kentucky law it is optional with the authorities, when a criminal is hanged for rape, to carry out the execution in private or make it a public affair. Without assigning any reason for the decision, the authorities made the infliction of the death penalty public.

Special interest attached to the case for some time because the sheriff of the county is a woman, Mrs. Florence Thompson. There was much speculation as to whether she would personally pull the trap or hire a substitute. She had declared that she would have no hesitation to do the job in person, but at the last moment she decided to hire a former Louisville policeman.

The crowds began to gather early, as they usually do at a public execution. It is estimated that 10 thousand persons were around the gallows when the trap fell. The crowd is described in dispatches as "festive."

Almost as soon as the trap had fallen the crowd made a mad rush for the body of the Negro in order to procure "souvenirs" of the horrible event.

But the facts are bad enough, at best.

Such a spectacle as that of Friday cannot fail to be brutalizing to all those who participated in it. We all know it was a gala event in England, when there were a couple of hundred crimes which carried the death penalty, and some poor devil was hanged, drawn and quartered. The crowds assembled at St. Giles as for some rare show, and had "dinner on the grounds."

But in the course of time we have become more civilized and more humanized. The death penalty has been abolished for all but the more serious crimes, and this of course is true in this country.

Almost all over the world executions have become private. It is no longer possible in most states to make the event of an execution a Roman holiday. Certainly it is a happy circumstance that executions in this state are more decent.

Behind it all looms the question if the time is not at hand when we should abolish the death penalty. As we have often pointed out, it is the swiftness and certainty of punishment, rather than the severity which deters men from crime.

The Dark and Bloody Ground is not made any more attractive by the spectacle of Friday.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Louisiana

5392

Burlington, N. C. Times
May 22, 1936

ONE LYNCHING BILL IS PAID

A PRECEDENT presumably without any parallel in Southern legal history was established in Louisiana when a jury of white persons granted the Negro parents of a 16-year-old lynching victim $2,500 damages in a suit against the sheriff who allegedly permitted the crime.

The verdict directed Sheriff Lezin H. Himel of Assumption Parish and his surety to pay the damages on the grounds of negligence in failing to prevent the lynching. The plaintiffs produced evidence tending to show that two of Himel's deputies not only surrendered the prisoner to the mob, but actually assisted in the lynching.

Certainly as a precedent, this award—made as it was by white jurors, against a white official, and in a rural county of the "Deep South"—speaks most favorably for a more wholesome psychology on the lynching problem. In view of the race prejudice and bitter feelings that are supposed to be part and parcel of the communion of the white and the black races in the South, this action indicates a definite hope for better understanding in the future, and of the whites' deeper sense of obligation and responsibility toward the Negro.

One thing is certain: it will be a long, long time before there are any more lynchings in Assumption Parish, Louisiana—at least with official sanction or even official apathy. No lesson is taken so keenly to heart, with resultant reform, as that lesson which knicks the pocketbook so deeply.

All in all, this jury's award is one more example of the efficacy that would distinguish enactment of an anti-lynching measure such as that proposed by the Costigan-Wagner measure now gathering dust in Congressional [illegible]holes. This bill, proposing to fine counties in which lynchings occur $10,000 (which automatically goes to the survivors of the victim), has been repeatedly introduced in Congress—and repeatedly spiked by action of Southern senators.

Pleading the venerable alibi of "state's rights", these solons have continued to lend indirect sanction to that crime of mass murder of which no section is guiltless; but of which the South, indisputably, is guiltier by far than any other.

Well, if it is up to the separate states to promulgate their own lynching reforms, let this example set in Louisiana be a guiding star. The sooner either Congress enacts an anti-lynching statute, or the separate states of the Southland take such action, the sooner will a stigmata of dark and evil violence that has long disfigured the South, be removed.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape

Mississippi.

5393

ASSAULT CASE TRIAL BEGINS AT GULFPORT

Lewis Boudreaux Offers Plea of Insanity

GULFPORT, Miss., Jan. 22. — With standing room at a premium in the big Harrison County circuit courtroom here today, trial of Lewis Boudreaux, alias George Burke, 21-year-old New Orleans youth charged with an assault upon an 11-year-old Gulfport girl early last September, began today.

With special guards around the county jail and others detailed to watch the prisoner in the courtroom, Sheriff Oscar L. Meador is taking every precaution to protect the youth, whom officers say has made three confessions of the crime.

A plea of not guilty by reason of insanity was presented by M. D. Brown, court-appointed attorney to defend Boudreaux, and virtually the entire day was spent in selecting a jury.

Circuit Judge Oscar F. Moss earlier this week conducted a sanity hearing and ruled that the defendant was sane.

A special venire of 40 men and two regular petit jury panels were exhausted before a jury was obtained.

Testimony of the girl and of Dr. Cummings McCall, the Gulfport physician, who treated her at the Gulfport hospital where she lingered between life and death for three weeks, and the introduction of purported confession by the defendant, featured the early stages of the trial.

District Attorney R. C. Cowan endeavored to get a jury of married men with families and indicated that the state would ask the death penalty.

YOUTH GIVEN LIFE IN ASSAULT CASE

Lewis Boudreauv, 21, Sentenced at Gulfport

GULFPORT, Miss., Jan. 24.— [illegible] Boudreaux, alias George Burke, 21, of New Orleans, was sentenced to life in the state penitentiary here today by Circupit Judge Oscar F. Moss, following his conviction on a charge of assaulting a 11-year-old Gulfport girl.

State's Attorneys R. C. Cowan an dGaston [illegible] had argued for the death penalty after a relentless prosecution of the youth, who took the witness stand in his own defense and repudiated a signed confession and two verbal confessions made since his arrest the day following the attack on the night of Sept. 6.

Feeling ran high here last fall and Boudreaux was spirited out of Gulfport and carried to the Hinds County jail at Jackson for safekeeping before his arrest was made public. He remained there until after his indictment by the grand jury here at the current term of court.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Missouri.

5344

Leader of Missouri Lynch Mob Gets Two-Year Term for Rape

St. Joseph Murderer Imprisoned for Crime In Own State

Daily Worker

2-10-36

New York, N.Y.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Feb. 9.—Carl (Cowboy) Fisher, leader of the lynch mob which tortured, hanged and burned Floyd Warner, 19-year-old Negro boy here in 1933, was found guilty yesterday and given a two-year sentence for rape.

Fisher was convicted of assaulting a woman on Sept. 26, 1935. He appeared in the court jauntily dressed in ten-gallon hat and cowboy attire.

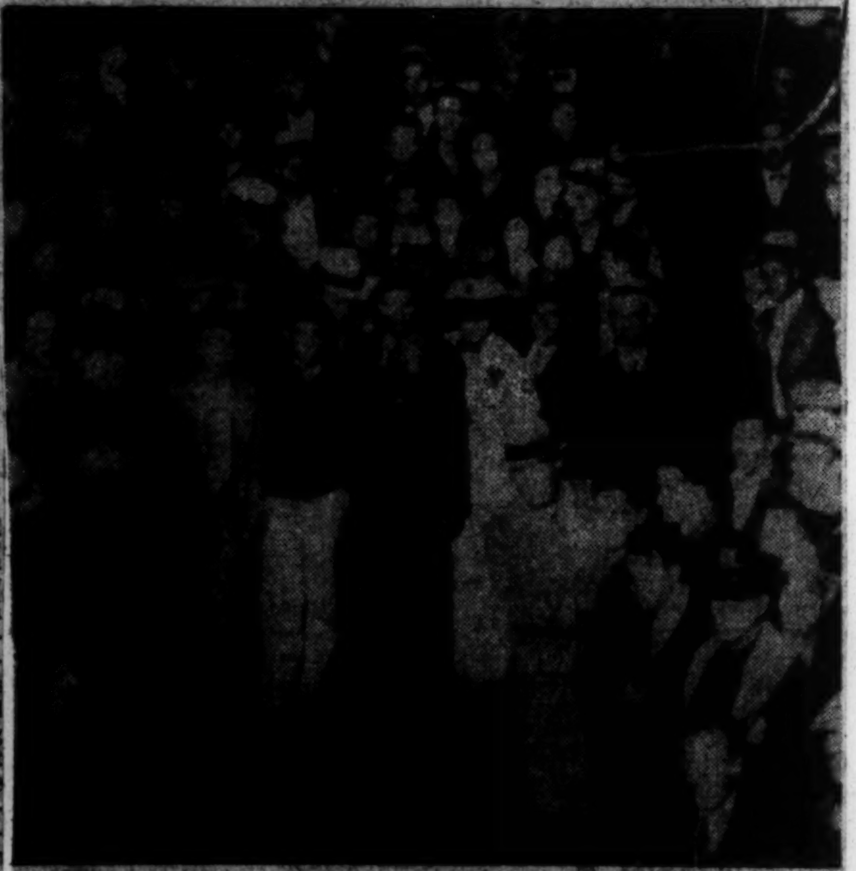
Fisher was the only member of the mob to be punshed for the brutal murder of Warner in 1933, and served a year in jail following his conviction for participation in the lynching.

At the time of the St. Joseph lynching, which for its naked brutality shocked the country, the second trial of Heywood Patterson was opened in Decatur, Ala. The trial was used by the Southern ruling class to whip up lynch incitement against the Negro people. At the same time Governor Rolph of California had issued a statement praising the lynching of two white men accused of kidnapping at San Jose, Cal.

Fearless in his knowledge that nothing very drastic can happen to a tool of the Southern Bourbons, Fisher appeared in court yesterday. He was given two years for a crime, even the suspicion of which would mean torture and death for a Negro without so much as a gesture of a trial.

Only about a month before Fisher led the howling mob which took Warner from the jail here a similar occurrence was perpetrated in Princess Anne, Md. In both cases the mobs were not interfered with by the police. At the time of the lynching here a bitter struggle to force the punishment of the Princess Anne mob leaders was going on and a wave of lynch incitement was sweeping throughout the country.

HE LED LYNCHERS WHO DID THIS



Carl (Cowboy) Fisher, who was sentenced Saturday to two years in the penitentiary for rape, was the leader of the mob shown above which tortured, hanged and then burned Lloyd Warner, 19-year-old Negro boy, in 1933. Charred remains are shown of the boy who was "accused" of the same crime for which Fisher was convicted. Note the uniformed police participating in the lynching.

Fisher was the only member of the mob to receive a sentence for the lynching. The mob stormed the county jail, seized Warner, hanged him to a tree near the courthouse and then built a fire under him.

New York World Telegram

FEB 8 1936

LYNCHER GOES UNLYNCHED

Leader of Mob Gets 2 Years for Same Crime as His Victim's.

By the United Press.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Feb. 8.—Carl Fisher charged with a statutory offense similar to the accusation against Lloyd Warner, a Negro who was lynched in 1933 by a mob led by Fisher, today was sentenced to two years in the State Penitentiary.

Lynchings - 1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Ohio

5395

White Professors Fight to Save Ohio Man from Gallows

Cincinnati 3-20-36

CINCINNATI—(By J. T. Whitney for ANP)—Believing that the trial at which he was convicted and sentenced to die was unfair, three professors at the University of Cincinnati joined with a host of citizens in the fight to save Pete Montjoy from the gallows at Covington, on April.

In the meantime, while his friends and those who believe in justice being meted out to all men regardless of race, creed or color are conducting this battle for his life, Montjoy, unmindful of the efforts being made to save him, is in the death cell awaiting his death. While protesting his innocence, Montjoy has not been non-plussed in the least by his conviction and the death sentence. He has rather made much of it and has invited several relatives and friends to attend his execution.

Those battling for Montjoy's life are firm in their conviction that his case falls under the same category, as far as injustice is concerned, as the Scottsboro case. The defendant was charged with assaulting a white woman and was tried before a jury composed wholly of whites. No Negro citizen of Covington was called to serve on the jury and the white jurors showed their prejudice against the defendant at every turn of the trial.

With the scaffold already constructed and the rope purchased for the hanging, Professors Earl T. Eubanks, Ernest T. Talbert and Harold Vinasky, and a large numberof citizens have taken the initiative to see that the execution is stayed and that the case is carried to the United States Supreme Court. William H. Wehrman, a young white atorney at Covington has taken Montjoy's case without fee, because he does not believe him to be guilty or that the trial was fair.

Alfred Bettman, prominent attorney and famous liberal has offered to do "anything I can do to help the committee seeking to see that Montjoy receives justice." He further stated that he firmly believed that the youth was innocent.

In outlining the case the defense counsel points out the following facts:

1. "The woman who brought the charge did not present testimony to indicate attack.

2. "She failed to apply for a proper medical examination after the alleged attack and detectives did not request her to do so.

3. "Though Montjoy signed a 'confession" it was signed in the office of the chief of police at four o'clock in the morning with no lawyer or friend of the accused present and it was written in the 'phraseology of one of the officers'.

4. "Negroes were excluded from both the grand and petit juries.

5. "The defendant was advised by his senior counsel not to take the stand.

6. "The Commonwealth's attorney's plea was of a sort to arouse prejudice against the defendant, in that he injected the race angle.

The trial was held in Kenton county and following the conviction an appeal was made to the Kentucky Court of Appeals which affirmed the decision of the Kenton county circuit court.

ROME, N. Y.
SENTINEL

MAR 16 1936

Scottsboro Rule vs. North

In Ohio a Kentucky Negro, one John or Pete Montjoy, 20 years old, is under sentence of death for the rape of a white woman. At Cincinnati the Montjoy Fair Trial Committee is laying preparations to carry the conviction and sentence to the Supreme Court of the United States, under the ruling of that high tribunal in the appeal of the Scottsboro Negroes whose conviction was voided on the grounds that in the county where they were tried there had never been a Negro on the jury list.

As the outcome of that ruling, several states of the South have at least made a pretense of complying with the principle laid down. Seemingly it will take at least one further appeal to Washington to establish whether or not there must actually be one or more Negroes on a trial jury when a member of the race is a defendant in a criminal case.

When the high court ruled, it is probable few persons thought it would have any appreciable effect in the North, since outside of New York and a few other large cities the proportion of Negroes to the total population has been regarded as infinitesimal. But that may have been an unjustified assumption. By the census of 1930 Ohio had a total population of 6,646,697, representing a gain of only 15 per cent in the decade. Included in that total were 309,304 Negroes, representing a gain of 66 per cent in the preceding ten years. To be sure, Negroes in Ohio six years ago still comprised only about 4.5 per cent of the total population, which might be held too small to make it reasonable one of them should often be drawn for jury service—but their presence upon the jury list is something else again.

The developments in the Montjoy case will be watched with much interest.

Oklahoma.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

5396

Jess Hollins' Future

The future attitude of the N. A. A. C. P. in the Jess Hollins case has not been fully determined. Proper steps will be taken in Okmulgee Friday to safeguard the rights of the defendant as it relates to new trial or appeal.

There are a number of difficult problems to be faced in charting a future course, and the national office will assist in mapping this policy. In any event, the wishes of the defendant will weigh heavily.

Those interested in the case of Jess Hollins should pay no attention to the recommendation of an Okmulgee county jury regarding parole and pardon. The constitution of this state conveys to the governor clemency and pardoning authority. No jury of twelve men could casterate this power from the chief executive's office.

Impeaching a Witness

The decision of a white jury to give Jess Hollins life in the penitentiary is a travesty on justice. We think as did the county attorney of Creek county: "Give him the extreme penalty or turn him loose." We mean by that we think Hollins innocent and that based upon the rape charge filed against him vindication could only come through absolute freedom.

Jess Hollins and Alta McCullough went down in the woods together on December 26, 1931. They both come back to the highways of citizenship to tell conflicting stories of why and how they met and the jury should have been interested solely in the intent and purpose behind the behaviorism of these two individuals as it relates to consent and mutual agreement on the morning in question.

Alta McCullough, whose married name is now Pinnion, alleges she was raped. Jess Hollins comes back to tell us that he went down that morning to fill a pre-arranged date, and that everything that happened was with this white girl's consent, and that when they had completed their morning he paid Alta McCullough 50 cents. They both belonged to the poor element of the two races so that the money consideration, if any was passed, should not be surprising.

The believableness of these two antagonistic statements should rest entirely upon the credibility of the witness. No one was down in the woods but the two parties concerned, so that no one could definitely know how and why these two young people paired together on the morning in question. Since they tell conflicting stories we must then go back to determine whether all or any part of their statements are thinkable, possible or probable, and the previous conduct of the individuals in question should be studied to determine their integrity, honesty and trustworthyness.

This is the only defense Jess Hollins has. He said he did not rape Alta McCullough and those who sought to secure justice for him knew that best evidence before that jury was to impeach Alta McCullough's testimony. In [illegible] the instructions of the judge to the Hollins jury were if they found any portion of a witness' testimony to be false they were at liberty to disregard any and all such portions as they considered as inconsistent and contradictory.

It was with this in mind that the defense sought to place before the Jess Hollins jury the fact that Alta McCullough, nee Pinnion, has in recent weeks had her own husband arrested on the complaint that her spouse had raped a hog. Judge Smith ruled that the defense could not do this, but this publication knows of no better method by which it could have gotten across to the jury that this white girl was unreliable and that her accusations against anyone should be accepted with great caution.

Here was a case where a serious charge of rape had been brought by the prosecuting witness against her husband. If the charge had been sound, believable and shown to have been filed in good faith, County Attorney Coryell would have filed an information against the husband of Alta Pinnion.

The fact that after surveying and weighing this serious complaint, and following holding Mr. Pinnion in jail, he released him, should have been sufficient warrant to the Hollins jury, that Alta Pinnion might be lying regarding the conduct of Jess Hollins on the morning of December 26, 1931.

Forget her husband and return to the incidents surrounding the case per se and this white girl's life generally. Was she impeached sufficiently before that jury, in a way, if all persons had been white, to have released Jess Hollins?

Alta Pinnion swore on the witness stand that she did not associate with Negroes; that she had never danced or drank whiskey with them; that on the night of December 25, 1931, she did not attend a dance at the home of a Negro named James Jacobs.

White and Negro witnesses tripped on the stand behind Alta Pinnion and swore that they had seen this same Alta Pinnion associating with Negroes, dancing and drinking whiskey with them, and many of these witnesses testified that on the night of December 25, 1931, she did attend a dance at James Jacobs. Mark you, now, this is the night before the alleged rape, and the night that Jess Hollins swore he met and made a date to meet her.

Attorneys read from the case-made in a previous trial showing that in material facts, Alta Pinnion contradicted statements made then, by the assertions made in the recent trial. This was done fully half a dozen times, all of which causes this writer to ask: "How is a witness impeached? Just how far would one have to go into the kingdom of improbability before a white jury would believe a Negro innocent and take his word before than of a white woman?"

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.

JUDGE IS SILENT ON STABBING OF DEPUTY

Advertiser

Decatur Grand Jury Qualified But Nothing Is Said About Scottsboro Negro

2-18-36

DECATUR, ALA., Feb. 17—(AP)—A Morgan County Grand Jury was qualified today but Judge W. W. Callahan presiding, did not mention an attack on a deputy sheriff by one of the nine negro defendants in the "Scottsboro case" in his charge, which stressed alleged violation of the prohibition laws.

The failure of Judge Callahan to mention the attack by Ozie Powell, one of the Scottsboro defendants on Deputy Sheriff Edgar Blalock, led to belief that the Grand Jury might not act on the case.

Montgomery, Ala.

This belief was strengthened as Solicitor Melvin C. Hutson, conducting the grand jury session, said he did not know "whether the grand jury would consider the attack at this time."

Powell slashed the deputy's throat Jan. 24, as the officer with Sheriff J. Street Sandlin of Morgan County transported three of the defendants to Birmingham. Powell was in turn shot by Sheriff Sandlin after the attack on Blalock.

Solicitor Hutson said yesterday it was "probable" that the Grand Jury would go into the attack by Powell on the deputy, but other phases would not be investigated.

Sheriff Sandlin expressed the opinion the night after the attack that "white persons" had inspired the attack on Deputy Blalock and himself.

The sheriff said Roy Wright, youngest of the nine defendants, had joined Powell in the attack, nearly causing him (Sandlin) to wreck the car. Sheriff Sandlin also announced he was investigating to determine if any "white person" was involved, but never disclosed what his findings were:

Ernest Gibson, of Hartselle, was named foreman of the Grand Jury today, and unless something unexpected develops, the sessions probably will close Wednesday.

Powell is one of nine negroes under indictments charging an attack on Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates aboard a freight train in Jackson County March 25, 1931.

Birmingham Weekly Review
[illegible]

A SCOTTSBORO PLAN—A lot of you have been thinking since my last article with reference to the proposal of the National Scottsboro Committee turning the matter over to a committee of white and black southerners. I have also asked many about their reaction to such a proposal. Many have said if they were in the Scottsboro boys shoes they **would** take their chances with a southern committee of Negroes and white people. There have been others who said they **would not.** There hav·been those who have said that in as much as the Negro and the white people of the south have taken little interest in the case that there is no ground for any such committee coming in on the case.

So that left me about where I started. But the next man I came in contact with, gave me an idea that I think worth trying out in the interest of settling the case, and preventing what is bound to eventually happen after the case has zig-zagged back and forth to the United States Supreme Court—**massacre of the boys by a bunch of halfwits**—which will cause **an increase in unrest, injustice** and many other damaging things. This man says that **a group of Negroes** should go to Mr. Liebowitz the next time he is in Alabama and ask him **out** of the case. This man feels that with that done, that any one or more of the boys who are actually guilty would be punished, any one or more of the boys innocent would be set free.

I have it from another source, that there is some information somewhere that **two** of the boys are actually guilty, **two** actually innocent and **four** accessories. It comes to me that this information has probably been known to Mr. Liebowitz as well as the prosecution. And that some one interested in settling the affair might have suggested that the case be settled upon this premise, but perhaps Mr. Liebowitz refused to consider it. This of course would make the prosecution determined, it would seem, to convict all of them. It would also mean that the defense has set out to free all.

With that sort of attitude on both sides, your guess as to the outcome is as good as anyone else's. But if you are interested in seeing just justice done, you can not discount the value of a group of Negroes asking Mr. Liebowitz out of the case, if this is the only way to set the innocent free, if there be any, and convict the guilty, if there be any. And settle the case, once for always—**stop the rising tide of hatred**—stop the thing that **drove** those boys to slash the throat of that sheriff—a thing that we all regret, but a thing that possibly you and I would have done, if we had been imprisoned for five years facing the electric chair, if we thought that by this move we might have escaped. **And we can not forget also that some one gave those boys that knife** previously, **to make bad matters worse—and whoever did it, did not do it to help the boys.**

If you are interested in the idea of the Negro Committee, please advise. At any rate write and tell us what you think is the best course to pursue, if you have the guts to do so.

YWCA JOINS SCOTTSBORO COMMITTEE

Daily Worker

National Board Votes to Cite Defense in Local Groups

2-15-36

Support has been pledged the Scottsboro Defense Committee by the National Board of the Young Women's Christian Association. In a letter received by the committee yesterday Mrs. Frederic M. Paist, president of the Y.C.W.A., stated that the attention of all local Y. W. C. A. organizations will be called to the issues of this case and their support urged.

The letter, addressed to Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers, chairman of the Scottsboro Defense Committee, follows:

New York City

"The National Board at its meeting on Feb. 5, voted to call to the attention of all local associations the significance of the Scottsboro case in relation to its national convention action to 'support efforts to assure to Negroes protection in the exercise of their basic civil rights.'

"The Scottsboro case has reached out into many areas of conflict—sectional misunderstanding, race discrimination and class prejudice; and there has been controversy over the handling of the defense of the case in the past.

"It is with satisfaction, therefore, that the National Board has received word of the formation of the joint Scottsboro Defense Committee, which is courageously trying to bring order out of a situation complicated by currents and cross currents.

"The Y. W. C. A. has Negroes within its own membership; the insecurity of Negro citizens and the frequent failure of the law to give them the protection guaranteed by the Constitution cannot pass unnoticed by the National Board.

"It is the sincere hope of the National Board that many Y. W. C. A. members throughout the country will feel impelled to give fresh consideration to the Scottsboro case and to the appeal of the Scottsboro Defense Committee for support in their effort to secure legal justice for Negro citizens."

The Scottsboro Defense Committee is composed of representatives of the Methodist Federation for Social Service, the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, the International Labor Defense, the League for Industrial Democracy, the Church League for Industrial Democracy (Episcopal), and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Oklahoma

5397

HOLLINS JURY ASSESSES LIFE PENALTY; ASKS BAR TO PARDON OR PAROLE OF CONVICTED MAN

CLOSING ARGUMENTS ACRIMONIOUS AS BOTH SIDES SEEK TO IMPEACH TESTIMONY OF OTHER

"She Got Caught," Says Brown

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City
Okla.

OKMULGEE, Okla., Feb. 14.—An all-white jury of twelve men, in the district court room of Judge Harvey Smith, following twenty hours of deliberation, declared Jess Hollins guilty of rape upon the person of Alta Pinnion at twelve o'clock today.

The trial, which began Monday and which was bitterly fought all the way by a battery of able N. A. A. C. P. attorneys, climaxed a five-year battle of Jess Hollins from a charge made by the prosecutrix following the morning of December 26, 1931, when the defendant alleged in court that Alta Pinnion's brother-in-law discovered Hollins and the then Alta McCullum returning to the highway from the woods where they had filled a date together.

The jury assessed a life penalty with the recommendation that the defendant be denied parole or pardon. Hollins' attorneys were immediately upon their feet, taking exception to that portion of the jury's recommendation denying future clemency.

"The court knows that such a recommendation is highly improper and illegal," declared W. Shearer Brown of the defense. "How can a jury take away from the governor of this state the constitutional grant of power?"

Many of the throng who waited late Thursday night for a verdict were of the opinion that the jury would hang, because of the seemingly interminable length of time they remained out. At 9:45 Thursday night they sent for the judge and returned to the court room for the rading of certain testimony given by the prosecuting witness. At twelve o'clock they asked to retire.

Arguments to the jury were heated and acrimonious Thursday afternoon. Sam Harris, assistant Creek county attorney characterized Hollins as "This fiend" and "this brute." He declared that a heinous and dastardly crime had been committed.

Harris took off his coat and rolled up his sleeves as he asked for the death penalty. He went into a twenty-five minute examination of the evidence as presented by the state, declaring that the defense had brought to the stand "paid witnesses" who had perjured themselves because of the filthy lucre in the "little black bag which has laid on the table here during all the trial."

Harris pointed his accusing finger at Editor Dunjee's brief case which had lain opposite [illegible] on the counsel table for four days, and from which point Editor Dunjee, who as president of the State Conference of Branches of the N. A. A. C. P., had directed the attorneys in developing their defense of Hollins.

"Why they have brought white witnesses here from Missouri. How do you suppose they got here, and who is furnishing the money? You jurymen know the answer. The pay-off is in that little black bag, and they do not get their money until they testify and testify right," continued Harris.

"Sure we paid our witnesses their expenses while traveling to and from this trial. We are paying all of their expenses here while attending this trial," declared Chal Wheeler, defense counsel, when he opened his argument for the defense. "I'll read you the instructions made by Judge Smith in this trial, wherein he declares that every witness is entitled to his railroad fare and $1.00 per day while in attendance here. There's nothing illegal regarding this, and while I'm on this subject I'd like for the Creek county attorney to tell this court why it was necessary for Creek county to deposit $500 with Okmulgee county before this trial could start. You know the answer. That $500 was placed here to pay the state's witnesses and to care for other legitimate expenses incident to this law suit."

"The court has told you," declared Wheeler, "that if you find that this prosecuting witness went out to the place where the rape occurred following an agreed understanding with Jess, and that she consented to whatever happened there, that you are required to find this defendant not guilty," declared Wheeler. "Let's examine the evidence."

eRading from the case-made of the former trial Wheeler related what Alta Pinnion said regarding her return to the highway after the alleged assault.

"She said that Jess wanted to return with her, stating he would take her up to Coopers. Here's what Alta declares she said to Jess:

"'No, I'll go alone. People might think I'm honery—you being of one race and me of another.'

"Now, I'll leave it up to the jury to determine. Does it look from that statement that Alta was acting through fear at that moment? If she was in fear or terror she would have agreed to have gone to any place or done anything that this defendant demanded. It looks like to me she was acting very independent, according to her own sworn statement, and I do declare to you that in my judgment she at all times exercised her own judgment that morning in everything she did.

"She came down to the highway with Jess. It's the same old story. She got caught there by her own brother-in-law and she cried rape.

"Alta wanted to salvage her pride. We have argued since Monday that Ross Frisby came upon this couple unaware on the 26th day of December, 1931, and that it was because of this that Alta cried rape. Now, if the state desired to impeach the witness they would have forced Ross Frisby to take that stand over there and say that Jess has lied. You know that Ross Frisby is within the jurisdiction of the court, but he's not here and the state has a good reason for not bringing him here. The state is afraid that oRss Frisby will tell the truth and that his statement will free this defendant.

"I have great pity for the father of Alta Pinnion, but after all, I do not think much of him. Any white man who will allow his 17 year-old daughter to run promiscuously over the country-side and attend Negro dances is not much of a father, and when such a daughter comes to the end of the road, as in this case, I cannot have too much concern regarding such a white father," Brown continued.

"Where is Alta's husband now?" asked Brown. "We asked that question once before during this trial. We asked the question and the county attorney was immediately on his feet to prevent you members of the jury from knowing certain facts that you ought to have, and the honorable court sustained the Creek county attorney in his objections. He would not let Alta Pinnion answer, and we brought here in this court and placed the assistant county attorney from Bristow on the stand to tell you where Alta's husband is and the complaint Alta filed against him. You gentlemen should have had that information and we tried in every legal and honorable way to give you that information," continued Brown.

The evidence referred to by Brown was the fact that in the month of December Alta Pinnion had her husband placed in jail at Bristow where he remained several days, charged with having had sexual intercourse with a hog. The defense sought to show the jury by this sort of testimony that the prosecuting witness was an irresponsible person who would make serious charges against anyone, not excepting her own husband, when seized with fits of anger.

Brown, in detail, went into an exhaustive examination of the prosecuting witness, exposing to the jury the conflict between what the Pinnion woman said at the last trial and what she said in 1936. He made constant reference to the case-made in the last trial and reading from same showed that either she was lying then or now.

"hTe last time she testified she said her belt was torn off as she was pulled through the fence.

JESS HOLLINS TRIAL BEGINS; JURY IS WHITE

Call

Oklahoma Youth Fights for Life, Again; Alleged Victim Testifies

2-14-36
Kansas City, Mo.

OKMULGEE, Okla.—An all-white jury was selected for the second trial of Jess Hollins, which opened in the Okmulgee district county court Monday, February 10.

Hollins has twice been sentenced to death, once following a plea of guilty and again at a trial held here.

Attorneys for Hollins filed a motion at the opening of the trial to quash the jury panel because of racial discrimination. The motion was denied by Judge J. Harvey Smith.

The defense attorneys offered testimony that at least 5,000 Negroes in the county are eligible for jury service, but that no Negroes were on the jury panel of 30 from which the jury was selected.

Deny Discrimination Charge

The charge of discrimination was denied by Edgar Johnson, Okmulgee county court clerk; Dave George, his assistant and Sheriff Ross Davidson testified for the state that there was no racial discrimination in the selection of the panel.

George said that he did not know whether or not there were any names of Negroes in the box from which the names of jurors were selected.

Dr. James White testified for the defense that Okmulgee contains 15,000 Negroes and that 5,000 of them are eligible for jury service. B. J. Wilson, local publisher, corroborated the physician's statement.

Alta McCollum, 21, of Bristow, Okla., who claims that Hollins attacked her on December 26, 1931, took the witness stand Tuesday and repeated the story which twice has condemned Hollins to the electric chair.

Hollins' first death sentence four days after his arrest in Sapulpa followed a confession of guilt. He was sentenced to die by Gaylor R. Wilcox, then district judge, in a midnight session of court. The Oklahoma supreme court reversed the decision. The second death sentence given after a conviction at a trial held here on chahge of venue from

JESS HOLLINS GIVEN SENTENCE; WILL NOT APPEAL CASE FROM VERDICT OF OKMULGEE COUNTY

NEGRO SNATCHED FROM ELECTRIC CHAIR FEARS ANOTHER ALL-WHITE JURY MIGHT AGAIN GIVE HIM HOT SEAT

Jury Polls Shows Six Wanted Death Penalty

OKMULGEE, Okla., Feb. 21.—With his face up, and looking squarely into the eyes of Judge Harvey Smith, of the 9th judicial district, Jess Hollins, Creek county Negro, was sentenced to life imprisonment at 10:30 this morning.

"Your Honor, I have this morning placed in the records a motion for a new trial and arrest of judgment," said W. Shearer Brown, leading counsel for the defense, and employed by the N. A. A. C. P., "but since I have talked with the defendant this morning I am asking permission to withdraw those papers and we are ready for sentence," continued Brown.

Following permission to withdraw preliminary appeal papers, Judge Smith pronounced sentence.

Hollins, according to Editor Roscoe Dunjee, president of the Oklahoma Conference of Branches, N. A. A. C. P., when seen a few minutes after the jury's verdict a week ago, expressed the desire not to have the case appealed, fearing, he said, that another jury might again give him the death penalty. Editor Dunjee told him at that time to think the matter over for a week, and insisted then that the N. A. A. C. P. be given the right to appeal the case, because of jury exclusion of Negroes, the unusual penalty assessed and other reversable errors in the trial.

Hollins quite evidently had seen a copy of the Okmulgee daily papers in which a jury poll had shown that six of the jurors sought this time to give him the electric chair. According to this daily, the life imprisonment verdict was a compromise between those who sought to give him the chair and two others who felt that fifteen years would serve the dictates of the law.

A letter received from the National office by Editor Dunjee, from Attorney Charles Houston, of the national legal staff, insisted that the appeal be made, if the defendant would agree to same. Walter White also wired from New York his hope that the case be carried up.

"I never can forget the N. A. A. C. P.," declared Hollins, in a statement made just before sentence. He was seated in the outer rooms of Judge Smith's chambers.

"I do not want anyone to assume that because I am accepting this sentence I acknowledge guilt. I did not rape Alta McCullough and everything I said at the trial is true. I have been in the shadow of the electric chair for more than four years and the knowledge now that I can live is too much. I can't see my way to let another jury gamble with my life."

Hollins said he intended to be a model prisoner in order to show those who had helped him that he appreciated their efforts and that he would never do anything to cause regrets on the part of those who had come to his assistance.

Only a sprinkle of idle persons were in the courtroom when sentence was pronounced, as contrasted with the huge throngs attending the salacious trial which began Feb. 10.

Black Dispatch
Okla City

Black Dispatch
2-27
Okla City

No Appeal For Jess Hollins

Call

Does Not Want to Risk His Life Again

2-28-30

OKLAHOMA CITY. —(ANS)— Although his counsel and the N. A. A. C. P. are anxious to appeal the Jess Hollins sentence of life imprisonment, Hollins, himself, does not wish an appeal because he is afraid to place his life before another white jury.

[illegible]

"You have saved my life and I am afraid to gamble with it again," he told his attorney who consulted with him about the appeal.

He accepted his sentence of life imprisonment in McAlester on Friday, February 21. The jury's verdict read that he was to receive "no pardon or parole." It is this condition that the Oklahoma Conference of N. A. A. C. P. branches wishes to attack, saying that the eighth amendment of the constitution says that no unusual punishments shall be inflicted.

Hollins said that he has lived in the death house at the state penitentiary for four years and has actually had his head shaved in preparation for his electrocution and that he is not disposed to live through another such trying ordeal if it can be prevented.

He is willing now to abide by the decision of the jury, not because he is guilty of the charge of attack of which he is accused but because he is afraid another jury might again send him to the electric chair.

Lynchings-1936

Legal Punishment for Rape.

Tennessee.

5398

Harris Must Die For Alleged Rape Says High Court

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 13—E. K. Harris, who was convicted of assaulting a 14-year-old white girl in 1934, which resulted in a riot in Shelbyville, Tenn., must go to the electric chair, according to the decision of the state supreme court which upheld the sentence of the lower courts here last week.

At the time of the alleged assault a mob formed and attempted to lynch Harris. County officers and national guardsmen defended the courthouse in a gun battle climaxed by the burning of the courthouse, after several persons had been killed and others wounded.

NEGRO TO BE EXECUTED

Commercial Appeal

Convicted in Three Hours by Nashville Court

NASHVILLE, April 21.—(AP)—Three hours after his case was called in criminal court today, James Taylor, a negro houseboy, was convicted of attacking his employer, Mrs. Denver Perry, at her home near here, Feb. 18, and his punishment fixed at death in the electric chair.

Mrs. Perry had been beaten severely with a handax in her struggles with her attacker. She appeared in court with both arms bandaged to the elbows and wearing dark glasses to shield the scars about her eyes and forehead.

She identified Taylor. Attorney General J. Carlton Loser took the stand to tell of Taylor's confession. Taylor pleaded innocent.

June 1 0 was fixed as the electrocution date.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
May 24, 1936

Let Law Take Its Course.

E. K. Harris, twenty-three-year-old Negro, was electrocuted Friday morning in the Tennessee State prison at Nashville for an attack on a young white girl. And thereby hangs a tale of lawlessness in which constituted authority sternly and successfully met the challenge of a maddened mob of hundreds of men.

The crime of which Harris was accused, and which he is said to have confessed shortly before he went to the chair, was committed at Shelbyville. He was hurried to Nashville for safekeeping and later was taken back to Shelbyville for trial. The mob formed as the trial began and attempted to seize the prisoner from the very presence of the Judge. Two or three times the mob stormed the court house but was repelled by State troops sent to the scene by Governor McAlister. A mistrial was immediately declared and the Negro was spirited away in an automobile before the would-be lynchers knew what was happening. When they realized that they had been thwarted of their prey they ran riot, burning a State truck or two and finally, when darkness came, burning the county court house. In the battle or battles with troops four members of the mob were killed.

In due time Harris was tried in a guarded court house at Nashville, on a change of venue, found guilty and sentenced to die for his crime, and the sentence has been executed. The Negro has been put to death in a legal and orderly manner. He is as dead as he would have been had he been killed by a mob. That fact, and the fact that they lost four of their own number in their attempt to take the law into their own hands, is something for the Shelbyville mobsters to think about. Let us say again that there is no excuse for the lynching mob in a land in which every community has its court house or hall of justice. A person accused of crime will, if proven guilty, pay the prescribed penalty—and in the case of crimes by Negroes against white women the penalty is death. Always it is better for all concerned to let the law take its course. Lynchers and potential lynchers should understand and should govern themselves accordingly. Until they do so, constituted authority should deal relentlessly with them.

Texas.

5399

Lynchings-1936

Legal Punishment for Rape.

Texas Negro Gets Chair For Attacking Girl Of 4

Advertiser

4-11-36

Montgomery, Ala.

LINDEN, TEXAS, April 10.—(AP)—Willie Dickerson, 22-year-old negro, was sentenced to death late today on charges of criminally assaulting a four-year-old white girl near Atlanta, Texas, last Dec. 19.

The negro, who slept until the verdict was returned, laughed when a Cass County district court jury fixed his penalty at death in the electric chair after deliberating 27 minutes.

Attorney S. I. Cornett, appointed by the court to defend the negro, said he would not appeal the case. Dickerson will be taken to the Huntsville State prison immediately.

Fixe Texas rangers, three sheriffs and a squad of deputies guarded the courtroom during the trial. Machine guns and tear gas were kept out of sight. There was no demonstration.

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Arkansas.

5314

Lynchings-1936
&
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

LEPANTO, Ark.—(AP)—A report was awaited today from Sheriff J. D. Dubard, of Poinsett County, on his efforts to identify members of a mob that lynched a 19-year-old Negro here Wednesday for an attempted attack on a white woman.

Silent with regard to progress in his investigation, Sheriff Dubard said he would disclose his findings to Denver Dudley, prosecuting attorney, at Jonesboro. Both termed the lynching "deplorable."

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.
DEMOCRAT
MAY 5 - 1936

Probe of Lynching In State Demanded

Arkansas's first lynching in more than three years has resulted in a demand for an investigation by state and county authorities. Mrs. B. J. Reaves, state chairman of the Arkansas Council of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, has sent letters to Governor Futrell and Sheriff DuBard of Poinsett county urging action.

In the letter she said "Our organization deeply deplores the mob murder of Willie Kees, negro, at Lepanto and we implore you to demand an investigation of this crime and blot upon the fair name of our beloved state."

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.
DEMOCRAT
MAY 11 1936

State Rangers Will Investigate Lynching

State Rangers will assist in an investigation of the lynching of Willie Kees, negro, at Lepanto last month. In a letter to Mrs. B. J. Reaves, chairman of the Arkansas Council of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, Governor Futrell declared that such co-operation would be forthcoming.

Superintendent Gray Albright of the Rangers was notified by the governor that the chief executive "would like a careful investigation of this case." The negro youth was shot to death by a band of masked men who took him from a Lepanto officer April 29.

Lynchings - 1936
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Florida.

5315

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
May 24, 1936

BLOWS TO MOB VIOLENCE

Tampa policeman participated in the flogging of some labor organizers and agitators. These men were stripped, flogged and tarred and feathered. One of them died. Now a jury convicts five of these former policemen, and thereby acts to redeem the good name of the State of Florida.

It is bad enough for ordinary citizens to join a mob, either to murder or to flog a hapless human being. It is outrageous, it is intolerable, when sworn officers of the law yield to the same low passion and join a mob which they are morally bound to repress.

Right-thinking citizens the country over will congratulate the Florida jury upon its sense of decency in convicting these former policemen. The jury has made a salutary example of faithless public servants.

Out of Louisiana comes an equally stirring story of justice triumphant and unique. The story is unprecedented. The tale with its moral appears in the following editorial from The Chattanooga Times:

> **The action of a Federal jury in New Orleans in holding a Sheriff responsible for the lynching of a Negro boy, and awarding $2,500 damages to the boy's parents will doubtless be accepted as an illustration of one method of solving the problem of mob violence. Students of lynching records in the South cannot recall another instance of law-enforcement officers being held responsible at law for failure to protect Negroes committed to their care. The Louisiana case was unusual in several particulars, an important one being that negligence was clearly proved.**
>
> **The case originated at Napoleonville, in Assumption Parish, in 1933. A mob took Fred Moore, 18-year-old Negro, out of jail and hanged him. Two other Negroes witnessed the hanging. Both Negroes testified in the trial of a suit against Sheriff Lezin H. Himel that two of the Sheriff's deputies took part in the hanging. Sheriff Himel was apparently not involved directly. The two deputies denied they aided the mob, but one of them testified on cross-examination that he did not communicate with Sheriff Himel, although fifteen or twenty minutes elapsed between the time the mob arrived at the jail and the time the Negro was forcibly removed by the lynchers. In his charge to the jury, Judge Wayne G. Borah asserted the actions of the deputies were binding upon the sheriff.**
>
> **The verdict of the jury was that Sheriff Himel clearly failed to provide the protection to which the prisoner was entitled. There is reason to believe that a large majority of lynchings occur only because of failure to provide adequate police protection. R. B. Eleazer, chairman of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, asserts that investigation of scores of lynchings reveals that "officers have been shown to be directly responsible either through negligence or actual connivance." And Mr. Eleazer adds: "When such can be proved, the officers involved undoubtedly ought to be made to answer both to the law and the families of the victims."**
>
> **The part the Louisian case will play in the legal fight against mob violence remains to be seen. Sheriff Himel will appeal from the verdict of the jury. The disposition of the case will be awaited with interest, for there is every reason to believe that if courts were quick to hold police officers responsible for the safety of their prisoners, the number of lynchings would decrease rapidly.**
>
> **Twelve States, including North and South Carolina, have laws providing for recovery against city or county where death occurs as a result of mob violence. They are utilised chiefly to penalize counties and cities for damage to persons in riots. In the South, damages have been obtained in few instances. To be made effective, such laws must have the support of strong public opinion. The Louisiana case will be significant only if it arouses in the people a desire to combat mob violence by holding rigidly to account police officers who are sworn to uphold the law and who can uphold it when they are determined to do so.**

Usually officers of the law are quite a match for mobs. Whenever they prove themselves unequal to the occasion it is usually their fault. Competent, determined officers can nearly always put down a mob.

QUICK APPEAL SEEN IN FLOGGING CASES

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., May 24.—(AP)—Quick action to bring a supreme court review of the Tampa flogging cases is expected here following the jury verdict finding five of the defendants guilty of kidnaping Eugene F. Poulnot.

An [illegible] maneuver is expected by Pat Whitaker, head of the defense counsel, to [illegible] the case squarely into the high court. It was learned in Bartow that Whitaker plans surrendering one of the convicted men to the sheriff, then apply for a writ of habeas corpus on grounds that the evidence and the law fail to support the verdict.

All five of the convicted former Tampa policemen are free on $7,500 bond each. They are C. A. Brown Jr., John P. Bridges, Sam Crosby, F. W. Switzer and C. W. Carlisle.

FORMER TAMPA POLICEMEN ARE AWAITING FATE

Judge Holds Up Ruling On Plea For New Trial In Flogging Case

By United Press.

BARTOW, Fla., July 10.—Despite defense requests for a speedy ruling, Judge Robert T. Dewell indicated today his decision on a motion for a new trail for five former Tampa policemen convicted of kidnaping in the Florida flogging cases may not be handed down before the end of the month.

Judge Dewell, at his home at Haines City, Fla., told the United Press "the case possesses many unique angles heretofore unheard of in criminal law in this state and will require considerable study."

"The motion for new trial," he said, "contained [illegible] counts and I intend to give each one proper consideration before passing upon the motion."

Dewell took the motion under advisement last night with a plea from Chief Defense Counsel Pat Whitaker for quick action.

Whitaker said today he was "awaiting Judge Dewell's ruling," before he would have any announcement. "But I'll promise you this," he said, "we're going on to the Supreme Court in the event the lower court rules against us."

Forty-seven days after the five defendants were convicted, Whitaker said today he thought the outlook for the men winning a new trial was brighter than at any time previously.

Whitaker charged chiefly that the jury was not properly guarded, that beer and liquor were served to the six jurymen at their hotel during the trial and that members of the jury were prejudiced.

The five ex-policemen were found guilty on May 23 of kidnaping Eugene Poulnot, prelude to the primitive violence that took the life of Joseph Shoemaker. The labor organizers were kidnaped last Nov. 30 by a mob, flogged and tarred and feathered.

FLOGGING VICTIM ASKS DAMAGES FROM TAMPA

TAMPA, Fla., July 29.—(AP)—Tampa's famed flogging case, in which five former city policemen were convicted on a kidnap charge, moved into new court circles today when Eugene F. Poulnot, one of the principal victims, filed preliminary papers in circuit court asking $100,000 for damages from the city of Tampa and from five convicted policemen.

While no declaration was filed today, [illegible] Bryan, Poulnot's attorney, said the basis of the suit would be false arrest and kidnaping. He said the city of Tampa was named because it was the technical employer of the police officers. They were: C. A. Brown Jr., F. W. Switzer, C. W. Carlisle, John F. Bridges and Sam E. Crosby.

Poulnot, with S. F. Rogers and Joseph Shoemaker, were seized by the police in a raid on the night of November 30 and after being released at the police station were allegedly taken to an isolated spot where they were tarred, feathered and beaten.

TAMPA CONVENTION AND FLOGGING TIED

Advertiser

Prosecution Of Band Promised So A. F. Of L. Will Hold Session There

10-26-36

TAMPA, FLA., Oct. 25.—(AP)—While preparations went forward for the approaching convention of the American Federation of Labor here, authorities announced today they would move tomorrow to prosecute a band of alleged night-riders charged with murder as a result of a triple flogging last November.

Montgomery Ala

The convention which starts Nov. 16 and the flogging case were tied together by Federation officials who threatened to move the assembly to another city unless the prosecutions were pushed.

Following this development and the organization by Norman Thomas, Socialist presidential candidate, of a "committee for the defense of civil liberties in Tampa," indictments charging kidnaping and second degree murder were obtained against 10 men, seven of them city policemen at the time.

They were accused of raiding a private home without warrants where a group of men were organizing a coalition third party for the purpose, they said, of "cleaning up city politics."

Three of those seized—Joseph E. Shoemaker, Eugene F. Poulnot, and Sam Rogers—were taken to the police station, docketed for questioning as to communistic activities and ordered released.

As they left the police station, in the heart of the city, on a busy Saturday night, they were bundled into automobiles and transferred to a motorcade which awaited them on the outskirts of towns.

Thence they were taken out into the country where they were stripped, beaten severely, daubed with tar and feathers and ordered to leave town. Shoemaker, a strapping young quarryman from Vernon, died from the ordeal.

Cops On Ttrial

In April, the seven policemen, who had then been suspended and were later discharged, were placed on trial for the Poulnot kidnaping. The police chief, R. G. Tittsworth, named as an accessory, and a special officer, Robert Chappell, were freed on a directed verdict. A jury convicted the remaining five—Sergt. C. A. "Smitty" Brown, Jr., John P. Bridges, Sam Crosby, F. W. Switzer and C. W. Carlisle—and they were sentenced to four years in prison. They are out on bail now pending appeal.

The trial, which lasted six weeks, was held in Bartow, rural county seat of adjoining Polk County, where the entire case was moved on a change of venue. There the prosecution and defense attorneys will confer with Judge Robert T. Dewell tomorrow on a four volume bill of exceptions on which the convictions will be appealed to the State Supreme Court.

Special Prosecutor

Rex Farrior, Hillsborough County State attorney who was assigned as prosecutor by the Governor, said he will seek at the same time to have a date set to try the murder charge. Indicted on that charge were the seven tried for the Poulnot kidnaping and three Orlando men, Arlie Gilliam, Ed Spivey and James Dean. Farrior declined to say how many he would seek to try.

The defense in the Poulnot case sought to imply that Poulnot and Rogers were responsible for Shoemaker's death because they delayed in obtaining assistance for him.

5315

TAMPA MOB LEADERS AT COURT HEARING

Rulings Show Attackers of Browder Meeting to Face Court Trial

(Daily Worker Staff Correspondent)

TAMPA, Fla., Nov. 27.—Communist Party affiliation of people assaulted is no [illegible] defense for the assailants, County Judge Cornelius ruled today at the preliminary hearing of the men who broke up the Earl Browder election campaign meeting here last month.

Defense Counsel, particularly E. P. Martin of Plant City, attempted to show that Albert Simmons, local secretary of the International Labor Defense, was not a "reliable witness" because his correct name was Lopez. He also attempted to compel Simmons to admit membership in the "Communistic Party." The judge ruled, however, that Simmons need not answer the question.

E. L. Bryant, special prosecutor, who has distinguished himself in other civil liberties cases here, won other favorable rulings from the court, in hearings which went on all through the day. Adjournment of the hearing was taken this evening until Monday morning.

The proceedings were held in the Criminal Court Room, in an upper obscure wing of the 45-year-old Hillsboro County Courthouse in the center of Tampa.

The judge's rulings today indicated that the men would be held for trial at the conclusion of the hearing.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Florida

5316

Mob Rule On Trial

In his series of authoritative articles concerning the Tampa flogging case which is now in court in the Florida city, Mr. Junius B. Wood has already described a combination of circumstances which constitutes one of the gravest dangers to our Democratic institutions. Joseph Shoemaker was not tarred and feathered and fatally beaten by a mob last November for the primary reason that he was a radical, but because the organization of which he was a leader was regarded as a threat to the continuing power of a political faction. Political racketeers resorted to racketeer methods to remove him from the scene.

In the fourth of his series of articles which appeared in the Times of Tuesday, Mr. Wood revealed that violence was at no time urged by the group with which Joseph Shoemaker was identified. Mr. Shoemaker had interested officials of the American Federation of Labor in a proposal for a 30-hour work week. He had in his possession a letter written to him by Franklin Roosevelt when the President was Governor of New York. Replying to a communication from Mr. Shoemaker, Governor Roosevelt had written in part, . . . "you and I are in fundamental accord on the principles upon which you touch."

It was as head of an organization which called itself Modern Democrats that Mr. Shoemaker was regarded as "dangerous" by politicians who opposed him. The organization numbered only about 250, including several Socialists, when it supported a candidate for Mayor of Tampa, Mr. Miller A. Stephens. Mr. Stephens received only 919 votes to 10,768 votes for his opponent. But the organization of the successful candidate apparently feared that the Modern Democrats might become powerful. It was then that a mob, numbering several men who held membership in the Ku-Klux Klan, kidnaped Mr. Shoemaker and two of his associates, S. D. Rogers and Mrs. E. F. Poulnot. All three were flogged and tarred and feathered. Mr. Wood wrote:

> A dose of medicine which had been successful in the past should run out of town the leaders of both Modern Democrats and Socialists—figuratively tarring two birds with one bag of feathers. If the plan had ended with the flogging and tarring and feathering of Shoemaker, Rogers and Poulnot, it might have succeeded, but Shoe- [illegible] led after nine days of agony, and [illegible] lowed demands for an investiga- [illegible] t brought results.

[illegible] ne[illegible] have been indicted in the case and [illegible] of that number were placed on trial yeste[illegible] Among the defendants are former members of the Police Department of Tampa and other former city employes. The conduct of the trial will be followed and its result appraised throughout the Nation by people who recognize that our institutions are not safe as long as there is mob rule. The circumstances of the Tampa case require the severest possible punishment for the guilty. And for the law-abiding people of Tampa and every other community there must be provided assurance that mob methods will not be tolerated.—Chattanooga Times.

FLOGGING JURY STILL INCOMPLETE.

26 Veniremen Examined; Defense May Again Ask Change of Venue.

TAMPA, Fla., March 28.—(AP)—The six-man jury to try the first of a series of cases that grew out of the fatal flogging of Joseph Shoemaker still was incomplete this afternoon as Judge Robert T. Dewell recessed court until Monday.

When the session is resumed, defense counsel indicated they would renew their motion to transfer the trial to another county on the ground that a fair and impartial jury cannot be seated here.

Twenty-six veniremen were examined today, and 18 of them were disqualified by the court when they said they had formed opinions about the guilt or innocence of the three suspended Tampa policemen on trial for kidnaping E. F. Poulnot. Others were challenged by counsel or were excused by the court for other reasons.

3-29-36

FLOGGING TRIAL AT TAMPA CONTINUES

Selection Of Jury Expected To Be Completed Today In Court

Advertiser

3-30-36

TAMPA, FLA., March 29.—(AP)—Selection of a jury remained to be completed tomorrow as the Hillsborough County Criminal Court opens the second week of its trial of three suspended Tampa policemen charged with kidnaping in the flogging death of Joseph Shoemaker.

Five jurors tentatively were seated, and four others remained to be examined before the first venire drawn for the case will be exhausted. The State still has seven challenges and the defense nine of the 15 allotted to each side. A week-end recess was called Saturday.

If challenges are exercised and the venire is exhausted without the jury being completed, Presiding Judge Robert T. Dewell faces the question of drawing a second venire or transferring the trial to another county as defense counsel has asked. Judge Dewell said he would answer the question when he came to it.

C. A. Brown, John P. Bridges and C. W. Carlisle are on trial on charges of kidnaping E. F. Poulnot. Shoemaker, Poulnot and Sam Rogers were abducted outside police headquarters last November, and flogged. Shoemaker died several days later.

The men were abducted upon being released after police said they were questioned about "communistic activity."

Only the Poulnot case is charged against the three policemen in this trial. The defendants, along with others, face additional charges of kidnaping Rogers, assault with intent to murder Rogers and Poulnot, and second degree murder for Shoemaker's death.

If the change of venue is granted, the trial will be transferred to adjoining Polk County, but it would take its place on that court's regular docket and might not be reached for trial for some time.

Defense counsel charged Tampa speakers and organizations had so inflamed the public mind against the defendants that they could not get a fair and impartial trial here.

Judge Dewell ordered efforts to select the jury to proceed, although he reserved decision on the change of venue pending exhaustion of this venire or seating of the jury. Thirty-seven veniremen have been dismissed by the court when they said they had formed opinions about the guilt or innocence of the defendants.

BARING OF FLA. FLOGGINGS RECALLS SORDID LYNCHING

(By Continental Press Service)

Defender

4-4-36

TAMPA, Fla., April 3.—A sordid series of floggings and outrages—one of which involves the lynching of a Race prisoner, Robert Johnson—has been unearthed and given new impetus by the recent flogging of Joseph Shoemaker, whose subsequent death is attributed directly to the cruel and inhumane treatment which he received at the hands of a group of white hoodlums, whose barbaric perpetrations have aroused the citizenry of Tampa and Florida and caused strong indignation to be very pronounced throughout the country at large.

New impetus has been given the already strong resentment due to the reports emanating from reliable sources that the outrage was done by some members of the Tampa police force and members of the Ku Klux Klan. One commentator said: "Policemen and members of the Klu Klux Klan had participated in the brutal defiance of law and decency."

Tampa's other outrage which parallels and, in some respects overshadows the case involving Shoemaker, a white man, is that of Robert Johnson, who was arrested January 28, 1934, by a Tampa policeman, T. M. Graves, as a suspect in an attack upon an unnamed white woman.

Johnson was held in jail two days for investigation and when he could not be proved guilty of the charge against him, and for which he was being held under suspicion, was ordered released. Policeman Graves was reported to have been told the prisoner (Johnson) was not wanted. At the end of the two days, Graves appeared at the police headquarters and stated he had a warrant for Johnson's arrest on a charge of chicken stealing and desired to take Johnson to the Hilsborough county jail of which Tampa is county seat.

Body Riddled With Bullets

Thirty minutes after Johnson had been turned over to Graves, Johnson was found dead, out from Tampa about six miles. His body had been riddled with bullets. Graves claimed two carloads of white men forced him to the curb, and that twelve other carloads followed him; finally, he said, three of these white men—all of whom were unmasked—threw him on the floor of the car, beat and kicked him dreadfully, another white man took his car, drove it to the country, took his gun and shot the Race prisoner.

The Association of Southern Women for Prevention of Lynching demanded an investigation. There were demands for arrests, investigation and many resolutions were passed. Nothing in the way of punishment has thus far occurred. Governor Sholtz ordered an investigation as demanded by the Southern Association and a grand jury went into the case, examining Graves January 31.

Although Graves admits none of the white men wore masks, he still claims he could not recognize any of his alleged accosters and abductors.

The grand jury which examined him the day following the alleged abduction when Graves claimed he was severely beaten while lying on the bottom of his auto, strangely reports it could find not one scintilla of evidence of bruises or bodily damage of any nature whatever, notwithstanding the policeman's claims to the contrary.

In its report made February 21, the grand jury said: "We were unable to find the slightest evidence that a mob, as such, committed this violence.

"As Graves was not an authorized or commissioned officer at the time, we are unable to indict him for malfeasance in office and there was insufficient evidence to indict him as an accessory before the fact, though the grand jury was divided on the latter."

In the resentment expressed in this section, there are those who claim that Graves could and should have been indicted for "impersonating an officer."

Clyde Mallory Anti-Union Telegram Read at Tampa Murder Parley

By JACK JAMESON

(Third of a series of articles.)

TAMPA, Fla., March 25.—On December 11, 1935, two days after Joseph A. Shoemaker died from the brutal beating, tarring and feathering administered to him on November 30 by Klansmen in and out of police uniform, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, sent a wire to Wendell C. Heaton, president of the Florida State Federation. In it, Green asked Heater to investigate the treatment accorded Shoemaker, Dr. Sam Rogers and Eugene F. Poulnot, who survived the flogging. He threatened to remove the Federation convention from Tampa unless the perpetrators of the crime were brought to justice.

On December 14, Heaton wired President Green that after an investigation he found "neither labor men nor questions of labor involved." While the Florida state president, who is also a Governor Dave Sholtz appointee to a state office, admitted that the victims had been active in organizations such as the Workers' Alliance, the matter he said, was "purely political" and "in no way connected with labor."

More Than Thomas Said

On December 16, Norman Thomas, Socialist leader, declared in Washington, D. C., that he believed it was a labor matter. Heaton's reply to President Green to the contrary notwithstanding. "It is a labor matter," said Thomas. "The rank and file are very much interested."

The Daily Worker, in this special series of articles on the Shoemaker case reveals today, for the first time, evidence to prove not only that the rank and file of American labor was interested—as Norman Thomas believed—but that the American Federation of Labor itself was directly involved.

Frank Henderson, organizer for the International Longshoremen's Association, an American Federation of Labor affiliate, was arrested November 30 by the same police-Klansmen, questioned and held prisoner in the same room with Shoemaker on the second floor of Tampa's police headquarters. This was the first move by the police to directly tie up the flogging campaign they had undertaken with the anti-labor union-busting program they had been ordered to carry out under the Klan-dominated city administration.

Deliberate Tactic

Henderson was taken into custody at the Gilbert Hotel here and deliberately detained to witness the questioning, beating, and torture of the Socialists and of Shoemaker, Modern Democrat, before they were abducted from the station house by policemen into police cars, from which they were later transferred into Klan automobiles, that drove them to the woods at Brandon, the scene of previous floggings.

Big business, headed by the shipping interests, through the Associated Industries of Florida, Inc., with offices in Tampa, Jacksonville, and Miami, let its wishes be known to the authorities and from Mayor Chancey's office, in the city hall, there came an order to Police Chief R. G. Tittsworth, "Klo" of the Ku Klux Klan, to get the Klan together and put on a reign of terror to try and arrest the rapid development of labor organizations in the city and state.

The Daily Worker discloses here for the first time the fact that District Manager Bartlett of the Clyde Mallory Lines, sent a telegram to the city authorities ordering Organizer Henderson's arrest. The detectives showed Henderson the telegram which stated he was a "Communist organizer" here to force strike action on the Tampa docks.

Read at Meeting

The telegram from the Clyde Mallory Lines, representing the shipping interests wthin the Associated Industries of Florida, Inc., was one of the communications read at a secret conclave held in Tampa's City Hall November 14, attended by Fred McLendon Bass, Kleagle of Orlando; Klansman Robert E. Lee Chancey, Mayor of Tampa, his Police Chief R. G. Tittsworth, the Ku Kluxer who heads the seven members of his department and the three Orlando vigilantes facing trial for murder and kidnaping.

The Clyde Mallory telegram that started immediate action came out of a secret meeting of a representative committee of the Associated Industries of Florida, Inc., an anti-labor organization whose letterhead tells "all Florida" that in industry, agriculture and commerce it is devoted to "The American Plan—OPEN SHOP," together with shippers and stevedoring contractors and executed by E. T. Lay, who is behind all the anti-working class legislation coming out of the capitol in Tallahassee. Lay, as executive secretary of this state-wide manufacturers association was the moving spirit behind that famous "work or jail" clause in the so-called "Social Welfare Act," which the state relief officials attempted to foist upon the unemployed workers last year.

Power Interests Involved

Another "big shot" consulted in the mad effort to keep the voice of labor from reaching the ears of the Negro Longshoremen was Peter O. Knight, of the Florida Light and Power interests, without whom nothing of importance is undertaken in Florida, and whose name will be bandied around in court during the trial. He will be mentioned in connection with an effort to send an important state witness out of town.

No one is likely to overestimate what the social, political and labor agitation of those October and November days meant to the shippers. At a time when figures proved a peak in Tampa's shipping, reaching the highest mark in five years, the labor agitators were threatening to interfere with rising profits and increased dividends. Tampa's main industry is the shipping industry; the city leads as a supply center. All the citrus fruit of the state, the phosphate and cement deposits, lumber and cigars going out from Port Tampa to all the world makes it the shipping center of Florida. It also makes the shipping moguls the real masters of the city and state. From the cigar industry, with its "labor trouble," finance capital drew a conclusion: the shipping industry must be spared at all costs. That is why the secret meeting decided to "gang up" on labor.

The spectre of a strike rose before the bosses' eyes and the Clyde Mallory officials refused to take any chances. The investigation uncovered, among other things, the purchase by them of 50 army cots from the Empire Mercantile Company of this city, which were delivered to the Mallory docks in anticipation of a waterfront war.

Eli Witt, of the notorious labor hating company union "Have-a-Tampa" cigar company here, was not along among business interests of the city to furnish bonds for the killing klansmen who are out on bail awaiting trial for murder. Nor were they all cigar manufacturers, bringing us again to that direct tie-up between the crime of November 30 and the Tampa waterfront.

E. L. Rotureau obtained a lease on the city's Rex Beach dock property, to run until 1944, at the ridiculously low rental of $150 a month. The extension of the lease was railroaded through the aldermanic chamber despite protests from any, and particularly from a scrap iron exporter, I. Berner by name, who offered to pay "$500 a month right now" for the valuable piece of dock property.

But the lessee was in on the secretely hatched plans for the November 30 "Tar and Feather Ceremony" of the K. K. K. to intimidate the stevedores. He looks after their political problems and they take care of his labor troubles and assure him cheap dock facilities. It is easy to see why Rotureau joined the crew led by Eli Witt that supplied the bail for the killers.

Klan Attorney Seeks Grand Jury Records

Secret Testimony of Poulnot and Rogers Is Sought By Whitaker In Flogging-Murder Trial of Tampa Klan-Policeman

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BARTOW, Fla., April 26. — Pat Whitaker will enter court tomorrow morning at the head of the coterie of Klan defense counsel armed with a writ of mandamus from the State Supreme Court, ordering presiding Judge Robert T. Dewell to allow him possession of transcripts of secret testimony by Eugene F. Poulnot and Dr. Sam Rogers given before the Hillsborough County Grand Jury which indicted the seven police-Klansmen on trial here.

In obtaining the writ, Whitaker did exactly what State Attorney Rex Farrior, prosecuting the Shoemaker flogging-murder case, said must and should be done before the defense can obtain the desired secret transcript. Arguing before Judge Dewell, Farrior stated that not until the court lifts the rule of secrecy from testimony before Grand Juries can such an irregular procedure be followed.

Whitaker told Judge Dewell, however, he was not one to rely on "the fickle memory of Grand Jurors" to corroborate the information he had received that Poulnot and Rogers made vital statements before the Grand Jury that were wholly at variance with the testimony given by them on the witness stand.

Supreme Court Move

Whitaker did not explain how he had obtained that supposedly secret data. So when Judge Dewell ruled against him, Whitaker, who was Peter O. Knight's whip in the State Senate, and who is reputed to be one of the men who "make governors in Florida," went to the Supreme Court and got himself a writ of mandamus with which he is expected to stop court proceedings here tomorrow. Peter O. Knight is head of the Florida Power and Light interests which also has street car franchises.

In a flowery speech for public consumption, Farrior declared "there certainly is no authority in law for the defense to go on a fishing expedition into the secret Grand Jury records."

"This case has not yet been disposed of," he continued, "there are still three defendants indicted by the Grand Jury who are not on trial. There are other cases in this matter. It would be highly improper and highly prejudicial to the State's interest to allow them possession of records. You might as well say they have authority to call on me to turn over my complete files."

Norman's Murderers

The reference to other defendants is made to the three vigilante floggers from Orlando that Fred McLendon Bass furnished to the Tampa Klan Nov. 30, the flogging-murder night. Bass and Gillian, who is one of the Orlando trio, it has been charged repeatedly in Polk and Hillsborough Counties, were among the kidnappers and murderers of Frank Norman, citrus organizer of Lakeland, in April 1934. The other cases yet to be tried are the kidnapping of Rogers and the abduction and murder of Joseph A. Shoemaker. The present case is the false imprisoning and flogging of Poulnot.

It remained for J. C. Rogers and Wallace Shaeffer, local officials, and P. B. Edwards, special attorney aiding the prosecution, to state in court that Florida law provided for no lifting of the "veil of secrecy" from Grand Jury proceedings and that the law should be followed.

Sworn to Screcy

R. F. Johnson, official stenographer, who took the testimony before the Grand Jury, said he was quite willing to comply with the subpoena by turning over the transcript either to the Polk County Criminal Court Clerk or to Whitaker, except for the fact that he was sworn to secrecy in his own Circuit Court.

Circuit Judge Parks yesterday instructed Johnson, after Dewell's ruling, to turn over all transcripts to Assistant State Attorney Huntley who was associated with Farrior in the prosecution in the Tampa trial, before Judge Dewell granted the defense a change of venue. Tuntley announced he had given them to Farrior. But Whitaker went after his writ of mandamus and the Florida Supreme Court came to the aid of the Ku Klux Klan.

Lynchings-1936
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Kidnap Legal, Klan Holds

TAMPA DEFENSE ARGUES FLOGGING NOT PUNISHABLE

Finding of Shoemaker Told

BARTOW, Fla., May 13. — Pat Whitaker, chief counsel for the defense today brought the Ku Klux Klan into the Bartow Court Room in an extraordinary argument intended to justify the kidnaping and whipping that caused the death of Joseph Shoemaker.

Whitaker was arguing for a directed verdict of acquittal for former Chief of Police Tittsworth and six other ex-police defendants.

His chief argument was that kidnaping for the purpose of flogging was not a crime under the terms of the Florida kidnaping statute, under which the Tampa policemen were indicted, unless the prosecution proved an "intent" on the part of the defendants to "secretly confine" the victims.

"Intent" Required

The Florida statute, which he says requires "intent" to "secretly confine" the victims as a requirement of guilt, is modeled after a similar Alabama statute.

Accordingly he read from an Alabama Supreme Court Justice's opinion, declaring that a group of headed Klansmen took a man named Calloway out of a church several years ago, and flogged him. The flogging was not a crime under Alabama law, declared the Justice's opinion, because the klansmen showed no intent to confine the man secretly.

Acted "Openly"

Instead, the Alabama citation declared, the Klan acted openly. Five hundred hooded Klansmen paraded in regalia near the church and many of them actually attended the services. Then a smaller group of Klansmen took the victim Calloway in an automobile, removed him to a distant spot and flogged him.

He was accused of intoxication and other "misconduct."

Whitaker, paraphrasing the citation in later argument, said the Klansmen "administered" a flogging. His use of the word "administered" was intended to suggest a legal, and judicial exercise of punishment.

Continuing with the argument he declared that no "intent" to "secretly confine" Eugene Poulnot, for whose kidnaping the men are on trial, had been shown.

Says Police Released Victims

Everything was done openly, he asserted, Policemen openly went into the Herald home, where the Modern Democrats were meeting openly took them to Tampa Police Headquarters, openly released them.

Then the men were put into the car which took them away to the place where they were flogged, he said.

Here Whitaker forgot himself, in admitting that the victims had been taken away and flogged. At other times he denied those facts were proved, though he admitted that evidence in regard to the facts had been submitted.

Terrorism Held Not Punishable

His repeated point was that Sergeant "Smitty" Brown, Carlisle, Bridges, Switzer and Crosby committed no offense punishable under the indictment based on the Florida kidnaping statute, whether they forcibly put Poulnot, Dr. Rogers and Shoemaker into the car in front of the police station, had them taken to another spot, where they were transferred to another car and thence to the flogging scene where they were beaten.

In other words Whitaker argues that open terrorism against labor leaders is legal. This lynching incitation is grist to the mill of leading Tampa citizens who are telling each other that "the right men were flogged."

One leading Hillsborough county official has declared that the trouble came when the men were kidnaped right out of a police station. That made the flogging seem too "official," he said.

Mass Action Begins

Floggings have been temporarily curbed by mass outcry against the Shoemaker case, but it is obvious that a renewal of such terrorism can be prevented only by a determined campaign for civil liberties, led by the working class, which furnishes the victims. Such organization has begun.

In latter argument today Whitaker compared the present flogging trial to the prosecution of Aaron Burr for treason, and vehemently demanded that Judge Dewell resist public outcry for a conviction, as Supreme Court Justice Marshall, he said, resisted President Thomas Jefferson's stand against Burr.

Today a case of sabotage against a prosecution witness came out, when it was learned that tires of the automobile, which brought Jack Shoemaker here from Tampa yesterday were slashed. Jack Shoemaker, a Tampa American Legion leader, testified to finding his dying brother in a ditch ten miles from Tampa after the flogging.

Klan Defense Opens Today In Bartow

Daily Worker

Alibis to Be Given For Policemen At Flogging

5-14-36

New York

TAMPA, Fla., May 17.—The famous Florida flogging trial at Bartow, first of the Shoemaker murder case, will finally go to the jury against only five of the seven police-klansmen and on only one of the four charges against them.

One of the freed is R. G. Tittsworth, the former Police Chief of Tampa who tried in vain to "whitewash" the entire affair before it came to trial and against whom Judge Dewell refused to allow damaging conversational testimony as evidence.

A Tampa detective, Matt C. Beasley, swore on the witness stand he was asked by his former boss to falsely state that he had received a phone call at headquarters and as a consequence of that call for help, he dispatched Sergeant "Smitty" Brown and the rest of the Klan cops on trial to the peaceful home that was raided here last Nov. 30. Judge Dewell, in the absence of the jury, ruled that testimony inadmissible.

Chappell Cleared

The other officer the Judge cleared of any guilt is Robert Chappell who was seen standing with the rest of the police-klansmen in front of the station house, when the police-klan car pulled away with Eugene F. Poulnot, according to sworn testimony of Police Lieutenant J. L. Eddings April 27.

Judge Dewell did what flogging counsel Pat Whitaker asked of him. Outwardly Klansman Whitaker wanted a directed verdict of acquittal for all of "the boys." No one in Bartow or in Tampa, however, expected that. Your correspondent and the friends of civil rights in the forefront of the fight here anticipated the release of the former police chief.

He had to go free, from the Klan view of things, both for the favorable publicity it would create on a nationwide scale and for the effect on the jury. Nor was it a surprise to anyone in the know here to find the court accepting Klansman Whitaker's contention that it is no crime to flog anyone in Florida so long as it is done openly.

No secrecy either having been intended or made use of in effecting the triple flogging by the "Triple K." Judge Dewell knocked out three counts from the information upon which the remaining Klansmen are to defend themselves.

Conspiracy Charge Dropped

The counts dropped by order of the court are "false imprisonment, conspiracy to commit false imprisonment and conspiracy to kidnap." The count left for the jury's consideration is the simple charge of kidnaping which could bring the police-klan-floggers a sentence of no more than ten years.

Judge Dewell gave no reason for his action announced in a short opinion on the Klan defense motion for directed verdicts for the defendants "jointly, separately and severally." In his ruling the court said in effect that the prosecution had failed to link Tittsworth and Chappell to the Poulnot kidnaping.

Evidence thus far presented by the State justifies continuance of the trial against the remaining defendants in order to allow the defense to present its case for the Ku Kluxers charged simply with kidnaping. Had not Judge Dewell left the one remaining charge, it would be all over now.

Decision Announced

When the decision was announced, Whitaker asked the court for an immediate recess, during which another of his motions was to be prepared for immediate presentation.

Whitaker wished to exclude important prosecution testimony and Dewell yielded to that demand; then Whitaker wanted a directed verdict of acquittal. The court obliged considerably. Instead of the expected motion, there came a conference between Judge Dewell and Defense Attorneys in his private chambers. The Klan defense said nothing.

Not to enable the jurymen to chew over the court's ruling this week end, the Judge delayed formal announcement of his decision until tomorrow. A procession of defense alibi witnesses is expected to start to the witness stand then to occupy the Jury's mind with new and fresh testimony.

The split of police department of this city is expected to be divided even further when the Klan Defense commences to attempt the innocence of the Klan defendants. Several officers, including a radio patrolman, are expected to assert that Robert P. Bridges was on duty elsewhere. It was Bridges, all witnesses agreed, who smothered Poulnot's cry for help.

Judge Dewell will advise the jury of the new status of the case. He is expected to come still more to the aid of the Ku Kluzers. Quashing conspiracy counts probably will mean that Dewell will instruct the jury to disregard evidence against "Smitty" Brown and others regarding events prior to kidnaping.

It is likely that the defense will not take as much time as originally was believed it would now that the job of defense is greatly diminished. Judge Dewell expressed hope, following that private confab with the flogging counsel, that the case might be concluded within a week.

Tittsworth, Chappell and the others are not yet free of other State charges, nor are their Klan associates of Orlando—the vigilantes imported by Kleagle Fred McLendon Bass for the Tampa "TripleK" to do the flogging. Against them all there still are informations on counts of kidnaping of Dr. Sam Rogers, Poulnot's companion in the kidnaping and murder of Joseph A. Shoemaker.

Klan Seeks Delay In Next Tampa Trial

Working Class Jury's Verdict Held Victory in Fight for Civil Rights Against Terrorists in Florida—Floggers Face 10-Year Sentences

By Jack Jameson

TAMPA, Fla., May 26.—A working class jury has found the Tampa police floggers guilty despite a well-greased Ku Klux Klan defense, a biased judge and a weak prosecution. The unexpected verdict ran through Bartow and Tampa like wild fire. In his charge to the jury, Judge Dewell attempted to apply the final coat of whitewash to the entire Shoemaker flogging-murder case. But the six-man jury, headed by a WPA worker and containing one unemployed worker, found the five police-Klansmen guilty of kidnaping Eugene F. Poulnot from Tampa's police headquarters last November 30.

J. P. Bridges, C. W. Carlisle, F. W. Switzer, Sam Crosby and ex-Sergeant C. A. "Smitty" Brown, who led the raid on the peaceful meeting of the Modern Democrats here, that night, face a maximum 10-year prison sentence.

Civil Rights Victory

The victory for civil and trade union rights in Tampa and Florida is, however, far greater than that. It presages the bringing to trial of the five police-Klan-convicts; Robert Chappell, the released Klansman and former Police Chief R. G. Tittsworth for the kidnaping of Dr. Sam J. Rogers. It spells a speedy trial for the kidnaping and murder of Joseph A. Shoemaker against the seven Ku Kluxers from Tampa and the three vigilante-floggers from Orlando. It means that a workers' jury rebuked flogging counsel Whitaker for attacking Communists and for resorting to the old trick of attempting to make the jury try Communism and Communists instead of Klan floggings and the defendants.

The jury returned its verdict after three and one-half hours of deliberations. The verdict was arrived at after three ballots, it was understood. At noon, two and a half hours after they retired, they asked for pen and ink. Judge Dewell entered the jury room at that time and it was agreed that he go to lunch. An agreement must have been reached then, it is believed. Each juror was asked individually if the verdict of guilty was his own. Every man of them replied in the affirmative.

Delay Next Trial

Polk County Solicitor Manuel Glover answered questions concerning the next step in the state's case against the Tampa-Orlando police-vigilante floggers. He believed the next trial in the series of the Shoemaker murder case probably will not come off for another couple of months. He said the next trial will be that of Arlie Gillian, Ed Spivey and James Dean, all of Orlando. The trio will be tried in Polk County, the solicitor said, and indicated that they would be tried first on the charge of kidnaping Poulnot.

The eleventh man to face trial on charge of being an accessory after the fact, like his former boss Tittsworth, the former police chief, is Manuel Menendez, of Tampa, former secretary to Tittsworth. Menendez refused to testify at the trial just ended on admitted orders in open court from Pat Whitaker on ground that it would incriminate him.

The jurymen returned what is considered here to be a "courageous" verdict. They gave their answer in face of invectives against Communists, Socialists and unemployed by the Klan defense, headed by Whitaker. They refused to be swayed by the counsellor "K-men" from their working class point of view and paid no heed to instructions by the court that left no course other than to acquit.

Whitaker's Jury Tactics

Whitaker tried everything imaginable to curry favor with the workers on the jury. He addressed them individually and collectively. He sat in the witness chair. Suddenly he jumped to the floor and sat on his heels. He waved his arms in the air and he used them to pat the jurors on the knees. He told jokes and he raved against Communism, the Tampa newspapers and witnesses.

Judge Dewell stepped down from the bench, seated himself beside the six shirt-sleeved jurors and delivered his charge. He explained to them that if they believed the defendants took Poulnot from the police station for the purpose of handing them over to the floggers, that would not constitute intent to "secretly confine and imprison."

"If you have reasonable doubt that the defendants intended to secretly confine or imprison said Poulnot you could not, under your oath, convict," he told the jurors.

Charge to Jury

Judge Dewell continued his role of aid to the Klan defense to the bitter end. He did not fail to remind the jury that the defendants need not take the stand in their own behalf and he ordered them not to take into consideration that none of the police-Klansmen dared take the stand to deny part in the crime of Nov. 30.

E. A. Borsage, one of Whitaker's attorneys, asked freedom for the kidnapers if the jury believed the purpose of the abduction of Poulnot was flogging rather than confinement.

"I want you gentlemen to remember you are not trying the flogging case," he said, "you might think you are trying it because the state was so persistent in giving you that information. Believe that evidence if you will, and when you believe that evidence, the state of Florida has disproved its case and not proved it, because if there was any intent, it was certainly the intent to flog."

The phraseology of the count as worded in the information against the police-Klan-kidnapers was so worded that when the case is proven, it isn't.

The Klansmen of Polk County figured without the workers on the jury. The verdict means a defeat for the Klan and forecasts an offensive by Socialists, Communists, trade unionists and all friends of freedom and foes of Fascism against Klan rule in Florida.

When Shoemaker died last December from the wounds inflicted on him on Nov. 30, his death shocked the nation.

When Poulnot cried in front of headquarters, his voice attracted attention. His outcry played an important part throughout the proceedings, during the preparation for the trial and all through the six weeks of court action.

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5 ARE CONVICTED IN FLOGGING CASE

Times

ury of Six Returns Kidnapping Verdict Against Former Tampa Policemen.

5-24-36
New York
N. Y.

TEN-YEAR TERM POSSIBLE

Sentences Deferred as Defense Plans Appeal—Trial Lasted for Six Weeks.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BARTOW, Fla., May 23.—A jury of six men today convicted five former Tampa policemen of kidnapping Eugene F. Poulnot in Tampa Nov. 30.

The verdict was returned after four hours and twenty-five minutes of deliberation. Those convicted are C. A. Brown Jr., Same E. Crosby, John P. Bridges, F. W. Switzer and C. W. Carlisle. The conviction carries a mamimum penalty of ten years' imprisonment.

The jury took three ballots, giving the same result, six votes for conviction.

Each of the defendants, together with others, faces two additional kidnapping charges for the abduction of Sam J. Rogers and Joseph Shoemaker, and a second degree murder charge for the death of Shoemaker. Poulnot, Rogers and Shoemaker were seized and flogged.

Pat Whitaker, chief of defense counsel, said that he would file a motion for a new trial within the four days allowed by law, but after a conference with his associates, it was learned, he planned to take the case immediately to the Florida Supreme Court in a different legal move.

Sentences Deferred

Meanwhile sentences were deferred. The defendants are free under $7,500 bond.

Manuel Glover, Polk County solicitor, said that he intended to bring the other charges to trial.

In his charge Judge Robert T. Dewell instructed the jurors that if they found the defendants kidnapped Poulnot for a flogging or any other purpose than "secret confinement" they were to return a verdict of not guilty.

That point was the crux of the case in the trial which lasted six weeks. Defense counsel had contended repeatedly that intent to flog was not intent of "secret confinement" as set out in the Florida law that was passed before the Civil War to apply to the kidnapping and theft of Negro slaves.

The prosecution charged that the act of forcing Poulnot into the bottom of a car near the police station before he was turned over to a band of floggers was literally and actually secret confinement.

34 Prosecution Witnesses

The prosecution put thirty-four witnesses on the stand to support its charge that the defendants had seized Poulnot with five others in an unlawful raid on a meeting of Modern Democrats, a political group, at the home of A. M. Herald in Tampa, had then kidnapped Paulnot, Rogers and Shoemaker at the police station and delivered them to a band of floggers.

Tampa politics provided a background for the case throughout the trial and defense counsel charged J. Rex Farrior, State Attorney, and his associates on the prosecution staff with political motives in their prosecution.

The defense also charged that the flogging victims were Communists and that much of the State testimony was perjured.

Group Here Hails Verdict

The Bartow convictions were hailed here last night by the Committee for the Defense of Civil Rights in Tampa, the Associated Press said.

The committee, headed by Norman Thomas, Socialist leader, declared that this trial outcome was "a step forward in our fight to restore civil liberties in Tampa, Fla., and to oust from control of the municipal government the Ku Klux Klan, which has been responsible for this and other similar outrages."

"Our work will not be done," the statement added, "unless similar verdicts are returned for the murder of Joseph Shoemaker and the kidnapping and flogging of Dr. Sam Rogers."

Florida

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Latest Florida Lynching Is Being Investigated

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ANP)—"We are investigating" was the only definite information that could be obtained from state offices this week concerning the lynching of a Negro at Greenville, one hundred miles from Jacksonville, last Friday. The Negro has been picked up "for questioning" in connection with an alleged attempted, attack on a white woman.

That there had been a lynching was generally known over much of the western part of the state. Some accounts stated that the Negro was being taken to the jail by the sheriff when a small mob met the group and fired several shots into his body. He is believed to have died instantly.

Repeated requests for a statement from state officials had brought no positive statement on the case up to Tuesday.

Doomed Pair Escape Mob Violence Second Time

GRENADA, Miss., (ANP)—Mississippi's notorious system of "justice," as meted out to Negroes, chalked up another "victory" here last week when a jury condemned two men, Andrew Hemphill, 45, and Thomas Jones, 43, to death on the gallows for the slaying last month of two white farm overseers, W. M. Simpson, Jr., 25, and W. W. Ingram. 20.

Following the reading of the verdict, Sheriff Dave Dogan saved the defendants for the second time from possible mob violence, when he shoved the prisoners into an automobile and sped out of town.

Before they were spirited away by Sheriff Dogan, Hemphill declared: "They forced us to kill them. They came down to move us or kill us. Both of them were armed."

FLORIDA PRESSES LYNCHERS' SEARCH

County Sheriff Directed 'To Make Every Effort To Arrest Guilty.'

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Sept. 2[illegible].—(AP)—Reports that a [illegible] lynched in Madison county September 11 caused the Governor's office today to direct Sheriff [illegible] L. Morrow and State Attorney J. [illegible] Kelly to "make every [illegible] apprehend the guilty

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First official information about the case came here today as Sheriff Morrow answered a telegram from J. P. Newell, secretary to Governor Sholtz.

Sheriff Morrow said he tried "to find out something about the lynching that occurred at Greenville," a community near Madison. "All information I can get is that this negro attacked a white lady and that someone in the posse killed him."

Other reports from Madison gave the negro's name as Buckie Young.

"You are requested and directed to make every effort to apprehend and bring to justice the persons guilty of this crime," Newell telegraphed Sheriff Morrow and State Attorney Kelly after receiving Morrow's report.

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Tampa Officer Defies Klan; Exposes Police

Daily Worker

Fear of Losing Job Caused Silence of Witness

5-2-36

By Jack Jameson

"Who will be the first to point the finger of accusation against the Ku Klux Klan in open court?"

That is the question being asked in Tampa and in Bartow where the evidence presented against the police-Klansmen on trial is tightening more and more around the former Tampa officers, their former police chief and the vigilante trio from Orlando, still to be tried.

The first note of open defiance to the K.K.K. came from a Tampa police official, testifying from the witness stand.

New York, N.Y.

"I have no physical fear of any man," declared Police Lieutenant J. L. Eddings, a state witness of athletic build, as he hurled defiance at the Klansmen facing him in court, "but I don't want to lose my job."

Feared Losing Job

He gave fear of losing his post as the reason why he delayed so long the telling of the whole story and the true story, surrounding the circumstances of the arrests, kidnaping, flogging, tarring and feathering of Eugene F. Poulnot and Dr. Sam Rogers and of the murder of Joseph Shoemaker by his former fellow officers and their Klan associates.

Why didn't he tell the truth to the Tampa Aldermanic Police Committee that conducted an investigation shortly after the flogging? Because, this police official will have you know, Detective Chief W. D. Bush who, he knew, had seen and heard everything testified before that committee, in his very presence, AND TOLD NOTHING. Unless circumstances forced him, the police lieutenant said he had made up his mind, right there and then not to tell.

Policeman 14 Years

Why is he now telling the truth to the jury in Bartow? Because, as he very well indicated, circumstances force him to and also because of his open admission that he has "ill feeling" toward all the defendants.

"I have ill feeling toward any man that brought ill-repute to the Tampa police department," said the man who has been a member of the department fourteen years. He told it to Pat Whitaker, heading the coterie of Klan defense counsel in a court room in Klan contaminated Polk County.

Lieutenant Eddings had one advantage over the Socialists and Modern Democrats who testified in the same court room. He sat in the same witness stand—armed.

Once, as the lieutenant returned to the stand after a recess, he was asked by Pat Whitaker about the gun he carried in a holster.

"Any particular reason why you should take the stand armed?" the attorney for the Klansmen asked.

"No particular reason."

Wears Gun Conspicuously

But the police official, who ought to know, took no chances. On the contrary, he took special pains to see to it that everybody saw the gun in his holster. Whitaker saw it. So did the rest.

The police lieutenant not only corroborated the testimony given by the state's star witness, Eugene F. Poulnot, about who specifically did the kidnaping and exactly how the abduction was effected, but he also proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that the contention of the Communists and Socialists that mass pressure alone, is responsible for the bringing of the police-Klan-criminals to trial.

"The impression was around the police station that no one was to know about the case," Police lieutenant Eddings said frankly. "Things like that had always been backed up against the wall."

Terror Reign Exposed

By "things like that," the now honest and frank police lieutenant meant the beating in the police station by members of the detective squad of Tampa Communists and their subsequent "release" into the hands of the K.K.K.

Such was the police practice since the inauguration of the "Tampa Reign of Terror" with the November 7, 1931, Soviet anniversary meeting, in the Labor Temple in Ybor City. Such was the case with Fred Crawford and Hy Gordon in Sept., 1932, and with Homer Barton in Sept., 1933. They, too, were tarred and feathered, Crawford twice.

It is obvious Lieutenant Eddings, with benefit of his police post and a gun by side, told all he was permitted —perhaps more than was believed he would or intended that he should.

Watch the reports out of Tampa and Bartow. The whole story has not yet been told. Not until someone on the stand says:

"I accuse the 'Triple K!'"

Klan Counsel Seeks Access To Testimony

Daily Worker

Bartow Trial Delayed as Whitaker Pries Into Records

4-29-36

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BARTOW, Fla., April 28.—The Florida Supreme Court came to the aid of the K.K.K. here yesterday.

Klan counsel for the seven police floggers on trial will obtain the secret testimony that Eugene F. Poulnot and Dr. Samuel Rogers gave before the Hillsborough County Grand Jury, as far as presiding Judge Robert T. Lewell is concerned.

New York, N.Y.

The order issued by the highest court in the State directed Judge Dewell to instruct court reporter R. F. Johnson to let the Klan defense make whatever use it wishes of the secret Grand Jury testimony or show cause why it refused to do so. The writ was returnable today, but in order to allow the State to continue presentation of its case, Judge Dewell said he had arranged that the date be moved up to "not later than this weekend."

Whitaker Tries to Smear Testimony

Continuation of the trial was made possible by Judge Dewell's simultaneous announcement that the defense could reserve the right to cross-examine Poulnot, who last week identified from the witness stand five of the police-klansmen and gave a detailed recital of horror and murder by the Ku Klux Klan. Both Poulnot and Rogers gave such vivid accounts of their tarring and feathering in the Brandon Woods last November 30, and of the flogging-murder of Joseph A. Shoemaker, that Whitaker has since sought in every way possible to impeach their testimony.

It was obvious the defense wants to confront the State's principal witnesses with their statements before the Grand Jury. It is for their purpose, Whitaker wants the transcript. He claims he was told the testimony of the two labor men differed widely from the story they told the Grand Jury—although he does not explain how jurymen and court attaches, sworn to secrecy, tell tales out of court.

Judge Dewell already summoned Johnson, the court stenographer, for next Monday morning. It is believed court will again recess on Thursday to give the State opportunity to appear before the Supreme Court at Tallahasse to argue the writ.

Indications here are that J. C. Rogers, assistant State attorney, and not Rex Farrior, in charge of the prosecution, will go to the State capitol to oppose release of the secret testimony which, he argued in court last week, is contrary to Florida law and established rule.

Before the State was permitted to go on, court recessed this morning to allow a special defense counsel conference. The klan defense had introduced another motion. It looked like another delay. The conference decided to the contrary, however, and Poulnot was recalled to the stand, not for cross examination by Whitaker, but for continued direct examination of State Counsel. He testified that he wore glasses because he suffered from headaches and eye strain and that he lost them in front of police headquarters last Nov. 30.

Prosecution Strengthens Case

The prosecution strengthened its case this afternoon with the testimony of its eighth witness, A. M. Herald, from whose home the Modern Democrats were taken by the former Tampa officers. He swore that neither he nor anyone in his household gave the police permission to enter the house and that they showed no warrant. Herald identified C. A. "Smitty" Brown, J. P. Bridges and F. W. Switzer as among the policemen who invaded his home.

Whitaker had previously indicated in his questioning of State witnesses that the defense will claim the policemen had a warrant for the arrest of men they knew then to be Communists bent on unlawful purposes.

ROGERS ENDS RECITAL IN FLORIDA FLOGGING

Constitution

Victim Denies Accusation Defendant Fired Him for Improper Relations.

4-22-36

BARTOW, Fla., April 21.—(AP)—After reciting additional details of the flogging administered to him and two companions, in a woods near Tampa last November, Sam Rogers hotly denied late today an accusation of Cross-Examining Pat Whitaker that C. W. Carlisle, one of the seven defendants, had him fired from a filling station job "for improper relations with negro women and for selling liquor."

Atlanta, Ga.

Rogers completed his recital of how he, Eugene F. Poulnot, and Joseph Shoemaker, who subsequently died, were whipped, tarred and feathered and Whitaker began a searching cross-examination which had not been completed at adjournment.

Whitaker drew from Rogers an admission he could not be positive it was Carlisle who tied a handkerchief over his head as a blindfold in the car in which he was taken to the scene of his ordeal, as Rogers had testified on direct examination.

The vigorous chief of defense counsel questioned Rogers closely as to the actions of himself and Poulnot after they left Shoemaker resting under a tree and went to seek aid at a filling station on the way back to Tampa after the assault.

Rogers, 57 years old, was born at Marion, S. C., and formerly practiced medicine at Dillon, S. C.

His testimony, completed the story of the flogging, which he had left unfinished Monday.

TWO TAMPANS FREED OF FLOGGING CHARGE

BARTOW, Fla., May 16.—(AP)—Two of the seven former Tampa policemen now on trial for kidnaping Eugene F. Poulnot, one of three socialists who were manhandled by a mob last November, were freed today by a directed verdict of acquittal.

More or less complicated charges of conspiracy to kidnap and to falsely imprison Poulnot were dismissed against the remaining defendants, leaving them charged simply with kidnaping.

Judge Robert T. Dewell made the rulings today after hearing two days of argument by state and defense attorneys and spending all of yesterday studying law on the subject. He then recessed court until Monday when the trial enters its sixth week.

Constitution 5-17-36

Atlanta, Ga.

FLORIDA NEARS END OF FLOGGING CASE

'Odds and Ends' of Evidence Will Go In Tomorrow Before the Defense Opens.

Tampa

EX-POLICEMAN ON STAND

5-10-36

His Testimony Upholds Account of Switch in Badge Number of a Suspected Officer.

New York Times

By JUNIUS B. WOODS

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BARTOW, Fla., May 9. — The State's case against the seven former Tampa policemen, including the former chief of police, who are accused in connection with the floggings of Nov. 30 which brought death to Joseph A. Shoemaker, was practically concluded today.

Before the court recessed at noon, the State announced that it had only a few more "odds and ends" to clear up. The defense declared its willingness for an afternoon session so that it could start presenting its case Monday morning. Judge Dewell, however, declared the session ended for the week.

The trial started here April 13, the first three days being used in filling a six-man jury. In the four weeks, thirty State witnesses have been heard, the testimony of some taking only a few minutes. During March, eight days were devoted to a vain attempt to impanel a jury in Tampa before a change of venue was allowed from Hillsborough County, where the alleged crimes were committed, to Polk County.

The State's final evidence today was a soiled newspaper clipping containing an interview on Dec. 6 with Chief of Police Tittsworth, since dismissed and now accused as an accessory in the case, which stated that no members of the Tampa police department were involved in the floggings.

Former Officer D. H. Chiles, who participated in the so-called arrests of the three men who were flogged, was later suspended but was not indicted, took the stand as a witness for the State. His testimony fitted in with that of two other police officers, the only witnesses heard today.

Policemen testified yesterday that Chief Tittsworth had been "tipped off" that the grand jury knew an officer wearing badge No. 39—that of policeman Bridges, who is now on trial among the present defendants—had helped drag Eugene F. Poulnot into the automobile in front of police headquarters which delivered him to the floggers.

Today's testimony was that another badge, No. 140, was obtained from the chief's office on the orders of Sergeant Brown, another defendant, and given to Officer Bridges, and that a list on which badge No. 39 did not appear was then sent to the State's Attorney to show that Bridges had Badge No. 140. Later Brown and the chief's stenographer, also indicted as an accessory but not on trial, "discovered" Badge No. 39 in a drawer at police headquarters. The defense contended that the change was made because Bridges, by seniority, was not entitled to such a low number.

Klan Murder Data Withheld

Daily Worker

Jury Will Not Hear Damaging Evidence Before Verdict

5-11

TAMPA, Fla., May 10.—All the damaging testimony against the police klansmen on trial at Bartow, heard all last week while the jury was excluded from the courtroom, will not reach to ears of the jurymen until after they have rendered a verdict.

Presiding Judge Robert T. Dewell so ruled before adjournment yesterday.

The judge had the matter under advisement since Wednesday and reserved ruling after long and repeated argument by counsel on both sides on Friday.

To admit or not to admit conversation as evidence, that was the question. Most important of these conversations took place shortly after last Nov. 30 the famous Tampa Flog night, between R. G. Tittsworth, former Police Chief on trial with six of his Ku Kluxers, and Matt C. Beasley, assistant chief of detectives, who questioned the labor men at headquarters following their arrest that night.

Jury Not To Know

The jury is not to know that Tittsworth asked Beasley to accept responsibility for the raid on the Herald home from where the Modern Democrats had been taken to police headquarters and three of them were later abducted to the woods outside the city for the tarring, feathering and fatal lashing party.

Beasley swore on the witness stand that on Dec. 2, two days after the flogging murder, Tittsworth had told him all officers involved would be required to make a report and asked him to state in his that he received a telephone call and had ordered "Smitty" Brown to make the raid. The Klan defense had indicated previously it would lay the cause of the raid to an incoming telephone call giving that address as the place "Communists were gathering with arms to start trouble."

Tittsworth declared publicly several days after the flogging that a telephone call from neighbors in that vicinity led to the raid. There was a phone call that came to the Police Station that night but it was the call from stoolpigeon McCaskill giving the tip off.

Another conversation with defendants was related from the witness stand—also in the absence of the jury—by H. L. Russell, special policeman on duty at headquarters that night. He testified that Brown and C. W. Carlisle had adjured him to conceal all he knew about what happened inside and outside the station house that evening.

All that incriminating evidence—and more—proving conspiracy on the part of the Tampa Klan-cops to kidnap the labor men and an attempt by their former chief, charged as an accessory after the fact, to "whitewash" the flogging murder case will not become part of the trial record.

"The defense objection is well taken at this time," Judge Dewell declared as he sustained the Klan defense objection and finally decided conversation is inadmissable in evidence.

Would Ask About Raid

If the jurymen were to learn that no such telephone call came to headquarters they would query, who actually ordered the raid. Conspiracy to kidnap is thereby clearly established. The substance of the conversation between Beasley and Tittsworth certainly is "incriminating" as Attorneys Glover, Bishop and Farrior stated for the prosecution during argument before Judge Dewell, and tends to prove the guilt of Klansman Tittsworth on the accessory charge.

It is one thing, however, for six already dismissed policemen to be discharged for "conduct unbecoming an officer" as happened when Mayor Robert E. Lee Chancey was finally obliged to fire the Klansmen in uniform, but quite another thing for the Police Chief to be found guilty of trying to use his high office to "whitewash" the entire affair.

That is why pressure had been brought to bear on Judge Dewell, during the period he had reserved ruling on the matter, to come to the aid of Tittsworth. The Judge had previously "passed the buck" to the State Supreme Court on the matter of granting the Klan defense access to secret grand jury testimony.

Semblance of Fair Trial

Superficially, there must be every semblance of a fair trial. But such "incriminating" conversations, according to Dewell, won't do. While the prosecution scored many points against the police floggers last week the Klan defense chalked up two major victories. Judge Dewell's ruling yesterday was victory number two. The first was the right to inspect the secret Grand Jury testimony, which it is still doing. Eugene F. Poulnot and Dr. Sam Rogers are still subject to recall for cross examination by Pat Whitaker.

Meanwhile Klan attorneys are studying those records and framing alibis for the Orlando vigilante trio, Klan associated of the police who actually did the lashing. Klansmen Gillian, Spivey and Dean were sent from Orlando, Fla., by Kleagle Fred McLendon Bass to officiate at the fatal flogging. It's an old Klanish custom to let members of an out-of-town "Wrecking Committee" do the dirty work. Identification is thereby forestalled.

The charge against these is murder. A vigorous prosecution might bring to light a two-year-old labor case in Lakeland, Fla., in which the same Klansmen were involved with others. Bass and Gillian have been identified as among the moving Klan forces that kidnaped and killed Frank Norman, citrus organizer and International Labor Defense leader, in Lakeland on April 11, 1934.

Klansmen Talked

Several Orlando Klansmen already had "talked" which lead to the arrest and indictment of the flogging trio, one of the flogging crew escaped to Georgia and there is danger of general descrimination in the event of conviction. That is why almost everybody in the know in Tampa regards the Florida Supreme Court ruling as of vital importance to the K. K. K.

The Tampa Verdict

Daily Worker

THE jury which on Saturday found the five former Tampa policemen guilty of kidnapping Eugene F. Poulnot, despite the vicious Klan atmosphere of the court, is to be commended.

These six jurymen, by responding to the united demand of great masses of the American people for such a verdict, have contributed toward what must be a victorious struggle for civil rights and against terrorism in Tampa and throughout the South. Their verdict of guilty can be made a new rallying call to the people, arousing still greater numbers to carry forward the struggle for the conviction and sentencing of these floggers, kidnappers and murderers who all to frequently cloak their fascist violence in the garb of the law. 5-25-36

It was the six-man jury that brought in the verdict of guilty. But it was the united mass movement of Socialists, Communists, trade unionists and middle-class groups which is responsible for that verdict. The arguments pro or con in the courtroom were not the decisive factors. The people's indignation at the murder of Joseph Shoemaker and the kidnapping and flogging of Sam Rodgers and Eugene Poulnot, their protest, their demand for a conviction — these are the factors that were decisive. These will also be the decisive factors in the further fight around the Tampa cases.

These same convicted policemen are yet to be tried on the charge of kidnaping Shoemaker and Rogers, and on the charge of murder for the death of Shoemaker. Moreover their attorneys have announced an immediate appeal to the Florida Supreme Court in an effort to set aside the jury's verdict.

The united committee for the defense of civil rights, with the solid support of all working class and liberal forces must continue and broaden the struggle. Those guilty must be punished! Civil rights for the toilers of Tampa must be won!

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Florida

5320

FLOGGING WITNESS TELLS OF SEIZURE

Times

Tampa Police Raided Meeting of 'Modern Democrats' Without Warrant, He Says.

SIX TAKEN TO STATION

4-19-36

Sergeant Later Warned Him Not to 'Mix With This Crowd,' Court Is Told.

New York [illegible]

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BARTOW, Fla., April 18.—Sinister methods of the Ku Klux Klan raised their heads today behind prosaic arguments by the batteries of lawyers for State and defense over admissibility of evidence in the first of the Tampa flogging and murder cases to go on trial in this quiet county seat.

Most of the three hours week-end session was devoted to arguments with the jury excluded. During the short time that Walter Roush, State chairman of the Socialist party and one of the six men whose preparation of by-laws for the modern Democrats was interrupted by the raid of Tampa policemen on the night of Nov. 30, was on the stand, the State laid the groundwork to show that an informer was on the committee.

The State's contention contrasts with the explanation of the six former policemen and the former chief of police, the latter charged as an accessory in the kidnapping of Eugene F. Poulnot, that the raid was a sudden response to anonymous telephone message that "dangerous Communists were meeting."

The defense with unending objections, most of which were overruled by Judge Dewell, fought as in the tfo previous days of the trial to sustain its contention that the meeting was in violation of the Florida Sedition Law of 1866, and the police were justified in making the arrests without warrants.

Platform Fought as Evidence

The defense's most vigorous objection was to disclosing the modern Democrats' ten-plank platform, the usual placid type of municipal reform, or permitting the witness' repetition of it from memory yesterday to remain in the record. Court recessed while statutes were searched for precedents and the final ruling will be on Monday. Aother long argument was whether the witness could testify as to what was asked him in the Tampa Police headquarters, the defense contending that a stenographer was present.

"This man who was present is in a position to know and they can not say his evidence is not competent," State's Attorney Farrior of Hillsborough County protested.

"The State cannot be bound by evidence handed over by the defendants themselves," County Solicitor Manuel Glover of Polk County insisted, though the police stenographer in question is not a defendant in the present trial. The court ruled the questions should be answered.

Mr. Roush declared that at the police station he was not asked about anything that had happened at the meeting, whether anything unlawful had been discussed or any laws violated. He said no warrants were shown for their arrest or search but that Sergeant Brown, one of the defendants, had taken all papers in sight as well as what the prisoners had in their hands or in their pockets.

Witness Tells of Seizure

"One grabbed me by the shoulder and said: 'Get up!'" he testified. "Another grabbed my left arm, shoved a fist in my ribs," clenching his fist to show, "and marched me to an automobile. At the police station we were booked downstairs and then taken in an elevator to Room seven. McCaskill was not taken upstairs. I did not see him again until in the Tampa court room two weeks ago."

J. A. McCaskill is the Tampa city fireman, since suspended, who was booked under his real name, which was later erased on the police blotter and a fictitious name written in. His father is a Tampa policeman.

Pat Whitaker, the tireless chief of defense counsel, objected to all testimony of the arrest.

The witness said that Mr. Poulnot was the first taken out of Room 7 to be questioned. He saw him next between 3 and 4 A. M. in his home. Though the testimony did not get that far, that was after Poulnot had been flogged, tarred and feathered and, with Dr. Sam J. Rogers, walked fourteen miles back to Tampa, leaving Joseph A. Shoemaker, who later died, by the roadside.

Mr. Roush said that while he, Dr. Rogers and Charles Jensen, State secretary of the Socialist party, who testified yesterday, were in Room 7, they heard screams from outside. Presumably the police were forcing Poulnot into an automobile in front of headquarters. Shoemaker was later returned to Room 7 and was there when Roush left. Sergeant Brown took him and Jensen home in a police cruiser car, warning them "you shouldn't be mixed up in this crowd." Roush said he telephoned Mrs. Poulnot and "Jack" Shoemaker, brother of the man who died, and the home of Chief of Police R. G. Tittsworth frequently but could get no answer from the latter.

It was revealed today that the alleged seditious magazine showing a white man and a Negro shaking hands, surrounded with great secrecy when identified as an exhibit yesterday, is a copy of The Labor Defender, printed in New York in 1931, and the organ of the National Labor Defense. When the court clerk pulled it out of his desk with other papers today Judge Dewell halted proceedings to warn him not to let the near-by six-man jury glimpse it.

TAMPA POLICE CHIEF LINKED TO FLOGGINGS

Constitution

Prosecution Winds Up Case With Charge He Is Accessory After Fact.

5-10-36

Atlanta, Ga.

BARTOW, Fla., May 9.—(AP)—Winding up its case against seven former policemen in the Tampa flogging trial, the prosecution today introduced testimony by which it seeks to prove former Chief R. G. Tittsworth is guilty as an accessory after the fact, and made plans to rest its case Monday.

Evidence today consisted of clipping from the Tampa Tribune of December 6 containing an interview with Tittsworth in which he said it was "conclusively established that no member of the police department had any participation directly or indirectly with the flogging."

Another statement was "The men I have talked with so far don't know anything about the flogging."

An additional bit of testimony involving Tittsworth was excluded when Judge Robert T. Dewell today upheld a defense objection which was raised originally on Wednesday. This concerned a conversation between Tittsworth and M. C. Beasley, assistant chief of detectives.

Testifying before the judge, with the jury excluded, Beasley said Tittsworth summoned him to his office after the flogging and, behind a bolted door, asked him to take responsibility for a telephone call which resulted in Sergeant C. A. Brown Jr., one of six former officers on trial as principals, leading a police raid without warrants on a meeting of the Modern Democrats in a private home.

From this meeting the three flogging victims—Eugene F. Poulnot, Sam Rogers and the late Joseph Shoemaker—were taken to the police station for questioning as to communistic activities. Upon their release there they were abducted in automobiles and delivered to the flogging band.

Three police witnesses today related circumstances of how the police badge of John P. Bridges, one of the defendants, was changed two weeks after the flogging. John Riegel, prosecution eyewitness, had identified Bridges by his badge and otherwise as the man who pinioned Poulnot in an automobile and gagged him with a hand over his mouth.

Role of the Klan Is Hushed In Tampa Shoemaker Killing

[illegible]

5-6-36

[illegible]

BARTOW, Fla., May 5.—It's hush, hush, about the Ku Klux Klan in the high ceilinged courtroom, where seven former Tampa policemen are on trial in the kidnaping of three Klan foes.

It has been widely reported that the members of the gang that flogged and burned Joseph Shoemaker to death after the kidnap ride were members of this terrorist society. [illegible] state nor defense counsel say one word about the Ku Klux Klan.

Many people ask why.

They ask whether Klan membership does not have a bearing on the conspiracy to kidnap the victims—and one of the counts for which the defendants are indicted is conspiracy to kidnap.

Yet the court room becomes a hunting ground for "Communists" when Pat Whitaker, leading Tampa politician, is on his feet.

Whitaker wants the jury to think that the Modern Democrats, who talked about clean Tampa elections and "production for use," were "Bolsheviks." When he examines Eugene Poulnot and Dr. Rogers, two surviving ride victims soon, he is expected to ask questions about political beliefs and affiliations.

Waiting this opportunity Whitaker is dragging out proceedings, asking the same questions four and five times, he has already prolonged the trial into its fourth week, and weeks more will follow, unless the defense rests its case, without calling any witnesses or putting defendants on the stand.

GROUPS IN FLORIDA DEFEND FLOGGINGS

Times

'Labor Organizers Must Be Discouraged,' Says Man Who Admits Many Attacks.

5-11-36

POLITICS ALSO INVOLVED

New York [illegible]

Residents of Citrus Country Are Puzzled at Wide Criticisms of Death in Tampa.

By JUNIUS B. WOOD

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BARTOW, Fla., May 10.—An unanswerable question to persons in this part of the country is why the mere flogging and tar and feathering of three men, one of them severely that he died, should attract such widespread attention in the United States.

At the same time, those in other parts of the United States are puzzled that a court trial, where the issues seem so clear and evident, should drag along as the present trial here in the Shoemaker case has done, with the State's case taking three weeks and just now reaching its conclusion.

The two points of view show the wide difference in thought, customs, life and politics in the country.

Flogging, tar and feathering and even death are not unusual here as a means of disposing of persons who are disturbing to certain interests, or to what is vaguely called "social order." They are not carried out under any law in Florida statutes, but by persons who believe such methods are for their own or for the public good, and their political influence is so great that court trials, or even arrests, rarely follow.

At the same time, the great majority or citizens in Florida, numerous but not influential, express the hope that the outcome of the present case will put an end to such methods.

Disposed of Dozen 'Disturbers.'

"Citrus growing is a $100,000,000 industry in Florida, and, as it cannot afford to pay higher wages, labor organizers must be discouraged. It would be undignified for members of the organization to do it, and outsiders are used," one man explained, adding that he himself had helped consign a dozen such "disturbers" to abandoned and water-filled phosphate mines and swamps.

In the cross-questioning of State witnesses by the defense in the current trial frequent reference has been made to a labor disturbanc in Tampa on Nov. 7, 1931, when a policeman was shot in the shoulder and another hit by a brick. It happened at a meeting to unionize the Latin-American cigar workers. Two leading Tampa cigar manufacturers signed bonds of $9,500 each for the Tampa policemen who are on trial here.

Enough has been produced in court and openly talked outside both to involve the citrus growers, the cigar interests, the Ku Klux Klan and the Tampa Police Department, and at the same time show that these organizations, as such, had no interest in the floggings, tar and featherings and murder of last Nov. 30, and that the responsible men in each of these groups thoroughly deplore the affair. They are involved because members, or men they had found useful in the past, did the job.

Who actually ordered it to be done has not been brought out at the trial. Political expediency makes possible the prosecution of the present defendants and advisable for the State not to prosecute, or even mention, others. Even two of the former Tampa policemen, who have frequently been named in the trial as taking part in the arrests without warrants and with delivery of the three victims to the floggers, were not indicted, nor is there any indication that they have turned State's evidence.

Many Issues Are Raised

None who has listened to the three weeks of evidence here believes that the eight former policemen would hav been involved in the alleged attacks, or that the chief of police would allegedly try to hush it up, without orders from somebody, or that a group of Ku Klux Klan members from Orlando, center of the citrus country, would drive 100 miles to Tampa just for the pleasure of flogging and tar and feathering three men.

Dozens of other issues, aside from whether the defendants are guilty of what the indictments call kidnapping, false imprisonment and conspiracy, have been suggested to the jury by questions on cross-examination by the defense. Their purpose is to put the flogging victims outside the pale of the law's protection and to show "these boys," as their attorney always calls the defendants, as courageous, kindly and patriotic Americans.

Though they have always answered with an emphatic "No," the two surviving victims of the flogging of last Nov. 30 have been asked whether they are not Communists who advocate the overthrow of our government by force, believers in racial equality, whether they urged workers to strike, preached government ownership as in the Soviet Union, read Socialist newspapers, had revolvers in their homes, or went outside of the State and by speeches disclosed the "shame of Florida" to the North.

Negro Freed In Attack Charge At Birmingham

Advertiser

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., May 20.—(AP)—A young negro WPA worker, Charlie Render, was acquitted by a jury today of a charge that he attacked a white woman.

Render was accused of assaulting the woman in a wooded section near suburban Irondale last February. The woman picked him from a group of several negroes and positively identified him on the witness stand as her assailant.

However, several white persons testified the negro was working on a WPA project at the time of the assault.

'Flogging' Trial Testimony Ends

Advertiser

BARTOW, FLA., May 18.—(AP)—The defense unexpectedly concluded it case in the six-week-old Tampa flogging trial today after introducing only four witnesses.

5-19-36

Their testimony was in behalf of but two of the defendants, C. A. Brown, Jr., and F. W. Switzer. Defense Atty. Pat Whitaker staked the fate of the other three, C. W. Carlisle, John P. Bridges and Sam Crosby entirely on arguments to the jury.

Montgomery Ala

The five, former Tampa policemen, are accused of kidnaping Eugene F. Poulnot, one of three organizers of unemployed labor who were flogged and tarred and feathered at Tampa.

The prosecution called no rebuttal witnesses after the defense rested. Closing arguments were made the next order of the trial.

The defense will have the final argument but how many lawyers would sum up for each side and how long they would be allowed had not been determined tonight.

Two more former Tampa policemen who went on trial with the other five were ordered freed by directed verdicts. They were Robert Chappell, named as one of the principals, and R. G. Tittsworth, former chief of police, accused as an accessory after the fact.

Judge Robert T. Dewell formally announced he would grant them directed verdicts. The jury, however, had not yet returned the verdicts.

Centre, Ala., News
May 15, 1936

The fiend incarnate negro Walter Miller, wh assaulted and killed Miss Vivian Woodward on th night of March 28th, at Huntsville, languishes in death cell at Kilby Prison awaiting his turn to b baked in the hot chair on June 19th. A Huntsville jury convicted him in 7 minutes, regarded as swift justice in Alabama, but if the State is going to cook him, why delay the funeral? If it were ever Right for Law to take a life, which we question, this Imp of Inferno should have been despatched immediately after a *fair* trial—which he seems to have had. Something might intervence within the month to delay or defeat the ends of Justice.

Tampa Whitewash

Daily Worker

JUST what every foe of Ku Klux Klan "justice" feared in the tragi-comic Bartow trial has happened: Judge Robert T. Dewell without even allowing the case to go to the jury, exonerated former police chief R. G. Tittsworth and Robert Chappell, two of the Klan defendants responsible for the flogging of Rogers and Poulnot, and the murder of Joseph Shoemaker. These gentlemen have been freed to further terrorize the Florida labor movement—backed, now, by the whitewash tactics of the Florida courts. 5-18-36

Three of the charges against the remaining five defendants were also dismissed—all at the request of Pat Whitaker the defendants' fellow Klansman attorney.

Rogers gave unimpeachable evidence which identified Tittsworth as one of the ring-leaders of the police-aided floggers. But this and piles of other decisive evidence, meant nothing to Judge Dewell, representative of the hundred million dollar fruit industry owners. Neither would it have meant anything in the fascist tribunals of Hitler or Mussolini.

No time should be lost in demanding that the five other cases go to the jury and that the remaining five defendants be convicted. Meantime, the greatest moral and financial support should be given to the Committee for the Defense of Civil Rights in Tampa, 112 East 19th Street, New York City.

JURY CONVICTS FIVE TAMPA POLICEMEN

Sentence Deferred On Officers Tried For Kidnaping Labor Organizer

BARTOW, FLA., May 23.—(AP)—A jury which listened to six weeks of testimony took three and a half hours today to convict five former Tampa policemen charged with kidnaping Eugene F. Poulnot, unemployed labor organizer last November.

Judge Robert T. Dewell deferred sentence for four days pending a new trial motion for the husky defendants. They are C. A. Brown, Jr., John P. Bridges, Sam Crosby, F. W. Switzer, and C. W. Carlisle.

Montgomery Ala 5-24-3

The officers, suspended from the Tampa force following the affair, were charged with a part in the abduction of Poulnot, Sam Rogers and Joseph Shoemaker, leaders in a coalition political organization formed to "clean up" Tampa politics.

A squad of policemen, entering without a warrant, seized the trio at a meeting in a private home. They were taken to police headquarters, questioned regarding possible communistic activities and "released—the prosecution told the jury the word "released" was "prostituted."

Outside the police station the men were forced into automobiles, and driven into the country where they were beaten and tar and feathers applied to their bodies.

Shoemaker died of his injuries.

Thirty-four State witnesses were heard during the long drawn out trial.

The jury of six men was charged by Judge Dewell, at the defense request

that if they believed the purpose of the kidnaping was to flog Poulnot rather than to "secretly confine" him, as the statute specifies, they must return an acquittal. The jury took three ballots.

Previously Judge Dewell directed acquittal of two other defendants, Chief of Police R. G. Tittsworth and Robert Chappell, special officer.

Three others named in indictments but granted severance are to be tried in about two months. They are Arlie Gillam, Ed Spivey, and James Bean, all of Orlando, Fla.

In addition, all the defendants face trial on charges of kidnaping Rogers, kidnaping Shoemaker and for second degree murder in connection with Shoemaker's death.

The case attracted wide interest because of the victims' "liberal" connections. Norman Thomas came to Tampa and formed a defense committee to press for prosecution of those responsible. The American Federation of Labor threatened to withdraw its national convention from Tampa next Fall unless action were taken against the floggers.

Florida.

5321

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.
See: Lynching, Cases Dec-1935.

Flogging Death Trials Set By Tampa Judge

Advertiser

TAMPA, FLA., March 20—(AP)—Judge Raleigh Petteway today set the trials of 10 defendants in the flogging death of Joseph Shoemaker, labor organizer, for March 23 in Criminal Court here after denying a defense motion for a change of venue.

The defendants entered pleas of innocent after the judge's ruling.

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10 MEN FACE TRIAL IN FATAL FLOGGING

Times

Tampa Will Bring Accused Former Policemen and Klansmen to Court Tuesday.

3-21-36

CASE TYPICAL OF LASHINGS

New York, Times

November Beating of Alleged Radicals Like Others in Which Klan Name Was Used.

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TAMPA, Fla., March 20.—What happened on the night of Nov. 30 last year, just outside of this city, when three men were so brutally flogged, tarred and feathered that one died after nine days of agony, is finally to be told in court. After repeated motions for delay, the trial of ten men in the Joseph A. Shoemaker case is scheduled to start next Tuesday.

Shoemaker and his fellow-victims, E. F. Poulnot and Dr. Samuel R. Rogers, had been branded as radicals who were stirring up trouble in Tampa. Shoemaker, a labor organizer, had entered a local political campaign by organizing a party called "Modern Democrats," advocating a thirty-hour week and other reforms.

In the trial starting Tuesday nine men will answer to charges of kidnapping and second degree murder, and one, a former Tampa police chief, to a charge of being an accessory.

Protests Made in Tampa

These crimes, it is charged, were not the sudden outburst of a mob but the work of men recruited from established organizations. Some of the men who go on trial were members of the Tampa Police Department and others had taken the oath of membership as Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and were former members of the same police department.

The aim of the prosecution is to remove a blot from the reputation of Tampa, from its respectable citizens and from conscientious members of its Police Department who respect and try to enforce the laws. The same stigma is on the Ku Klux Klan and its members, but that is not looked on here as a local problem, because the Klan is a national organization.

The Shoemaker case aroused protests of horror and indignation in Tampa which echoed through the country, until nation-wide attention was focused on the scene. "What is responsible for conditions where such things are possible?" was the invariable question.

Hillsborough County authorities have uncovered a plausible political motive for this particular Tampa crime, but a broader investigation shows that this outrage was the climax of many similar acts, some with equally fatal outcome, indicating it was the outgrowth of a condition which has existed for years.

Violence Under Cloak of Klan.

A considerable portion of Florida citizens holds that any one suspected of communism, nudism, radicalism or various minor "isms" is outside the pale of the law and its protection. A vastly larger number of citizens live in haunting fear, never knowing where the terror will strike next, with loaded weapons always within reach, and it is only after their confidence has been obtained that they will affirm in hushed voices that most of these blood vengeances are inflicted under the cloak of the Ku Klux Klan. Their opinion may not be justified, but its widespread prevalence cannot be questioned.

A burning fiery cross or an anonymous letter or telephone call of warning, in the name of the Klan, precedes such outrages. A speeding parade of automobiles, with honking horns, is the customary notification to the public that a "job" has been carried out and that a battered or lifeless body may be found when daylight comes. Anybody, without even being a Klansman, can voice an anonymous threat and use the Klan name, giving an appearance of Klan approval to a deed of violence and increasing the popular fear of the organization.

Officers and reputable members of the order indignantly deny that the Klan is responsible for, or even countenances, such methods.

THREE MEN SEATED ON FLOGGING JURY

Stormy Skirmish Marks Trial Of 7 Tampa Policemen At Bartow

Advertiser

BARTOW, FLA., April 13.—(AP)—Half of a six-man jury to try seven former Tampa policemen on charges of tarring and feathering three labor organizers here last November was tentatively selected late today after stormy skirmishing between counsel over the liberal affiliations of the victims, one of whom died.

4-14-36

Black-browed Pat Whitaker, chief of defense counsel, made the bare white walls of the drowsy court room ring as he vigorously attacked Norman Thomas, Socialist leader, and asked the veniremen whether they had heard his speeches or read his pamphlets.

Montgomery (Ala.)

Thomas organized the committee for the Defense of Civil Rights in Tampa, to press for prosecution of the floggers.

The victims, E. F. Poulnot, Sam Rogers and Joseph Shoemaker, who died of his ordeal, were organizers for the Workers Alliance, an organization recognized by the American Federation of Labor.

Rex Farrior, boyish-looking state attorney who presented the case to the grand jury which indicted 11 men as the assailants, objected to the form of Whitaker's questions as improper.

The court ruled, however, that Whitaker's identification of Thomas was necessary to make clear to the veniremen who was meant and allowed the question.

"Norman Thomas is not on trial here," portly Judge Robert Dewell remarked.

Whitaker asked two questions in virtually identical form of every talesman:

"Do you believe not only in that part of the constitution which lies in this case but in our constitution in its entirety?" the answer invariably was affirmative.

"Then you don't," he continued, "believe in the principles of Communism that seek to destroy our form of government?"

Another question Whitaker put was whether the jurors would hold it against the defendants if the defense offered no testimony and the seven former policemen did not take the stand.

The three seated tentatively when court adjourned until tomorrow morning were H. K. Owens, poultry man, William Fall and G. A. Walker. The latter, a white-haired, bespectacled man of 60 in a white shirt without a tie, said he had been a PWA and WPA worker for the last three years.

"Have you ever heard your co-workers talk about this case?" Whitaker asked him.

"No, never," Walker said.

The Workers Alliance, of which Poulnot is president, organizes WPA workers and the unemployed.

Only about half of a special venire of 108 Polk County citizens remained from which to qualify jurors after the court had excused those who had fixed opinions or various claims to exemption. There remained 70 challenges which the attorneys had the privilege of using.

Judge Dewell estimated it might take two or three days to select the six men who will form the jury. He presided when an unsuccessful effort was made recently to obtain a jury in adjoining Hillsborough (Tampa) County.

Judge Tries To Gag News On KKK Trial

Daily Worker Plays Important Role in Bartow Trial

Daily Worker

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BARTOW, Fla., April 17.—Judge Robert T. Dewell, of Haines City, Polk County, Florida, made an unsuccessful effort to suppress news coming out of Bartow in connection with the Poulnot kidnaping trial over which he is the presiding justice.

4-18-36

Claiming that he had "a good reason" for asking it, Judge Dewell summoned newspapermen into special conference at the close of yesterday's session and asked the press representatives not to mention the fact that circulars headed "We want a fair trial" were distributed widely by the Communist Party of Florida all around the courtroom here nad in surrounding cities. "I don't want to suppress any news," said Judge Dewell, "but I would appreciate it if you men wouldn't say anything about those handbills."

New York

News on Wire

His "good reason," the Judge indicated, would become known later and he aded that he would let reporters know when to release the news he wanted suppresesd. But the judge was too late. The newspapermen, with a nose for news saw an excellent story in a printed circular asking for a "fair trial" in a klan-controlled county and already had put them on the wires.

Judge Dewell played host to the reporters at a press dinner he gave on the opening day of the trial.

"Judge Robert T. Dewell of Polk County agreed with Whitaker that it is far better to be surrounded with the indignation of only 5,000 people of Bartow than the 100,000 of Tampa," read the Communist Party circular. It called upon the people to "build a people's front against the klan" and urged the formation of a "Farmer-Labor Party" to put an end to fascist floggings in Florida.

Charles Jensen was again on the witness stand today and was questioned by State Attorney Farrior and examined by Pat Whitaker, chief counsel for the klansmen. Jensen held fast to his declarations of yesterday that former Tampa policemen rushed into the Herald home on the night of last Nov. 30 from all directions and that they had no warrant.

The Daily Worker played an important part in the day's proceedings causing the removal of the jury from the courtroom and an exchange of words by counsel for both sides. Prosecutor Farrior's attention was called to the fact that Pat Whitaker was displaying a copy of the Daily Worker. The State Attorney asked the Judge to excuse the jury, and when they were removed Farrior declared:

Daily Worker Exhibited

"While the jury is out we want to object to defense counsel exhibiting newspapers and headlines to the jury."

Everybody in the courtroom saw the seven defendants and their chief defender in court holding aloft a different copy of the Daily Worker containing a different article of a series on the Shoemaker flogging-murder case written by Jack Jameson. Supposedly reading the articles, the Klansmen were holding the papers aloft hoping to attract the eyes of the jurymen. Several copies of articles on the front page of the Daily Worker were held high over the readers' heads, displaying the hammer and sickle on the masthead of page one.

"It wasn't for purpose of exhibiting anything," said Whitaker.

"There is no argument about it," replied Farrior. The Daily Workers were folded and placed on the counsel table and the jury was brought back. Questions of Jensen was resumed.

A special set of Daily Workers, containing articles and news despatches about the trial, was seen in Whitaker's possession indicating that he would present them as evidence for the defense.

Klan Defense Turns Court to Red Baiting

Daily Worker

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BARTOW, Fla., April 14.—The Criminal Court here was today turned into a "red-baiting" rostrum by Pat Whitaker, chief counsel for the klan defense in the Poulnot kidnapping trial, without objection from State Attorney Rex Farrior or adverse ruling by presiding Judge Robert T. Dewell. Belief in the principles of Communism and meeting with Communists in the city of Tampa, according to Klansman Whitaker, is a felony. During examination of one of the venire-men, Whitaker went so far as to even indicate that he anticipated such a charge by the court.

Addressing G. W. Collier, a farmer from Medulla, and a prospective juror, Whitaker declared:

"If the court charges you that it is the duty—not a right but the duty—of not only every special deputy but of all police officers to arrest any person believed to have committed a felony;

"And if the court charges you that any person is committing a felony if he believes in the principles of Communism and meets in assembly to plan against our government, is believed to be committing a felony: you will take all that in consideration."

Collier answered in the affirmative. He was seated in the jury box.

Four Tentative Jurors

Farmer Collier was the fourth tentative juror selected from a rapidly dwindling panel of 108 names. The other three are H. K. Owens, 32, a poultryman, who is a cousin of Sheriff Jerry McLeod of Tampa; William Falls, 42, a fruit buyer, and G. A. Walker, 60, a WPA worker of Bradley Junction, Earl Turner of Mulberry, formerly of Chattanooga, Tenn., and H. J. Brown, Auburndale barber, filled the jury box.

The regular venire was already exhausted today and only about forty of the special venire remained. G. L. Miller, of Winter Haven, the first juror called stated he had a "fixed opinion" regarding the case and was disqualified.

Whitaker asked each prospective juror whether he had read any of the circulars distributed around Lakeland relative to the case and also whether he had listened to the radio broadcast by Norman Thomas that "nationally known Communistic propagandist."

Defense Not to Testify

From another question put to the veniremen by Whitaker it was evident the defense does not intend that the seven K.K.K. defendants take the stand in their own behalf. Whitaker wanted to know whether the jurors would hold it against them if they failed to testify. The defense plans to place Poulnot and Rogers, the two surviving victims of the night ride of last Nov. 30, and their fellow Socialists and other members of the Modern Democrats on trial in this court as plotters to destroy our government by force. With a weak prosecution the klan defense may succeed in befuddling the clear cut issue of civil and democratic rights that is involved in this abduction, flogging and tarring and feathering case. Only mass pressure from organized labor and friends of civil liberties in Florida and in the North will obtain for the people a fair trial in K.K.K. Polk County.

HIGH COURT TO RULE ON FLOGGING TRIAL

Scene Shifts To Third Tribunal As Defense For Cops Seeks Transcript

Advertiser

BARTOW, FLA., April 30.—(AP)—The trial of seven former Tampa policemen in connection with the flogging of three labor organizers, already moved from Hillsborough County to Polk County Criminal Court, was shifted temporarily tonight to a third tribunal—the State Supreme Court at Tallahassee.

At the end of a day devoted entirely to the cross examination of a minor state witness, Judge Robert T. Dewell called a recess until Monday to permit attorneys to argue a point of law before the Supreme Court tomorrow.

The question at issue is whether the defense should have access to a stenographic report of the testimony two of the flogging victims, Eugene F. Poulnot and Sam Rogers, given before the grand jury.

State Attorney Rex Farrior had the transcript made to assist him in trying the case.

The defense tried to subpoena it to use in cross examination but Judge Dewell upheld a prosecution objection. Then the defense obtained from the Supreme Court an alternative mandamus requiring the judge to admit the transcript or show cause why he excludes it.

Pat Whitaker, chief of defense counsel, indicated that if he is upheld on this point he may seek the grand jury testimony of all other state witnesses as well as recall them for further cross examination, as he reserved the right to do.

How long this procedure might extend the trial, already three weeks old could not be forecast. The six jurors are locked up every night and closely guarded.

The lone witness today was W. D Bush, chief of detectives Nov. 30 when the flogging victims were abducted just outside the police station.

Bush said former Chief R. G. Tittsworth, charged as an accessory to Poulnot's kidnaping, tried to cover up the information Bush said he gave him—that Officers C. A. (Smitty) Brown, Jr., and C. W. Carlisle were involved in the matter.

Whitaker tried to discredit his testimony by attempting to show that Bush sought Tittsworth's job.

Tampa Klan Spy Exposed

Daily Worker

(By Federated Press)

BARTOW, Fla., April 28.—Further light on the Tampa police department's use of stool pigeons in the ranks of labor political movements appeared in the Tampa flogging trial today as Police Lieutenant J. L. Eddings continued his testimony.

4-29-36

The testimony concerned former city Fireman McCaskill, a minor officer of the Modern Democrats.

Eddings said that Officer C. A. Brown, who led the raiding party against the Modern Democrats, told him positively, that McCaskill had been planted in the workers' organization as a spy.

McCaskill was promptly released before Joseph Shoemaker was taken for his fatal ride. Eddings previously testified that he asked Brown: "McCaskill is a city fireman, is he a Communist?" "Yes," answered Brown, "he is secretary of the organization."

Tittsworth Named

"I said that's all right, he is secretary of the organization. I said that's a hell of a note, he being a city fireman. 'That's all right,' replied Brown, 'he was supposed to be there'."

Of Tittsworth, Tampa police chief at the time of the flogging, and now a prisoner before the bar here, Eddings said: "I believe he was vitally involved." Tittsworth tried clumsily to whitewash the department in private conversation after the flogging, Eddings reported.

The Kidnaping

Echoes of the kidnaping of Shoemaker, Poulnot and Rogers came to the courtroom as Bancroft Kallis, a storekeeper, testified that he heard a series of yells from in front of the police station, the night of the death ride.

The yells came from the midst of a group of men near two automobiles.

G. C. Langford, filling station operator, told of screams from the police station curb a hundred feet from him on the kidnap night.

VICTIM RELATES STORY OF TAMPA FLOGGING

Rogers Gives Factual Picture of Abduction and Beating in Florida.

BARTOW, Fla., April 20.—(UP) Sam J. Rogers, 57-year-old survivor of the Tampa floggings, told a story of violence and blood today, speaking quietly from the witness stand in the trials of seven men charged in the case.

In a matter-of-fact tone contrasting with the bloody story he was relating, Rogers gave the first factual picture of the abduction of three labor organizers almost in the shadow of the Tampa police station.

With Joseph Shoemaker and Eugene F. Poulnot, Rogers was captured by a masked mob after he had submitted to questioning at the Tampa police station.

Under questioning by Prosecutor J. Rex Farrior, Rogers told how he was released after being questioned in the detective bureau.

Detective C. W. Carlisle, one of the defendants, he said, led him out of the detective bureau.

"Carlisle asked me to get into a car and said he would take me home," Rogers testified.

"We drove south—away from my home. After a short trip I saw 8 or 10 parked cars and we drove up to the front end of the row of cars and stopped suddenly."

He described how he was stripped of his clothing.

"They pulled me across a log. Two men held my hands, one held my head down in the sand and one held my feet.

"They began immediately to beat me—I don't know how many blows—it was impossible to count but I think there must have been about 40 or 50.

"They began putting tar on me from my ribs to my knees in front and then turned me over and tarred and feathered my back."

Defense attorneys entered a motion to strike Rogers' testimony, which referred to victims other than himself. Judge Dewell reserved decision until tomorrow, when Rogers will be subjected to cross examination.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

General.

5322

COLUMBUS, OHIO
CITIZEN

MAY 25 1936

LAW VS. LYNCH

IN Florida a Polk County jury found five former Tampa policemen guilty of kidnaping and flogging three labor leaders last November, a case made famous for its brutality and the death of one of the victims.

In Louisiana a Federal Court jury fined a sheriff $2500 for negligence in failing to prevent the lynching of Fred Moore, a Negro boy, in 1933. Because the case was brought by the dead boy's parents in Arkansas the trial fell under federal jurisdiction.

But these triumphs of law, encouraging as they are, do not cancel out the other side of the picture.

Lawlessness, masquerading as super-patriotism, is brought to light in Michigan. The Black Legion, a terroristic secret society professing allegiance to the Constitution but conducting an undercover campaign of race hatred and religious intolerance, is caught red-handed in the mob murder of a young WPA worker. State police investigate tips that this vigilante organization also was responsible for many other "purification" murders which were disguised as suicides.

There is ample justification—yea, necessity—for an expansion of the federal police power to the end that we may stamp out mob violence just as we have stamped out kidnaping. In the last 54 years, lynch mobs have slain 5000 men and women. Since the spring of 1935, when a Senate filibuster shelved the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching law, there have been 25 actual lynchings and 117 attempted lynchings, narrowly averted.

YOUNGSTOWN, O.
TELEGRAM

MAY 26 1936

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5322

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Georgia.

5324

5324

Cordele, Ga. Dispatch
March 19, 1936

CHATTAHOOCHEE JURY DEPLORES LYNCHING

CUSSETA, Ga., March 18— (AP)—The lynching of Philip Baker, a negro, near here last Friday night was termed a "deplorable affair" in presentments returned Tuesday by the Chattahoochee County grand jury.

Expressing regret over the incident, the jury said no evidence was available as to the identity of any member of the mob which seized the negro from Sheriff J. T. Van Horn.

Baker was charged with attacking one white woman and beating another and a negro woman.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
WORLD-TELEGRAM

MAR 18 1936

SORRY OVER LYNCHING

Georgia Jury Describes Incident as "Deplorable."

By the Associated Press.

CUSSETA, Ga., March 18.—The Chattahoochee County Grand Jury today had expressed regret over the lynching of Philip Baker, Negro taken from Sheriff J. T. Van Horn by a mob Friday night, but said no evidence as to the identity of any of the members of the mob was available.

In the general presentments returned by the body it described the incident as a "deplorable affair."

MINISTERS URGE LYNCHING PROBE

Six Clergymen at Dalton Request Investigation of Death of Negro.

Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.

DALTON, Ga., Sept. 11.—(AP)—Six Dalton ministers united yesterday in a demand for a "rigid investigation" of a lynching here last Sunday.

A negro identified by Sheriff J. T. Bryant as A. L. McCamy, accused of an attempted attack on a white woman, was taken from the Whitfield county jail and hanged. 9/13/36

A resolution signed by the ministers termed the lynching "a disgrace in which the entire state necessarily shares, because a company of lawless men flouted the peace and dignity of the commonwealth and trampled upon the sovereignty of ordered government."

Calling upon "right thinking citizens to join with us in hot censure," the resolution asked for "relentless prosecution" by law enforcing agencies.

The resolution was signed by E. D. Carlock, W. P. Rowe, A. M. Pierce and L. N. Twiggs, Methodist ministers; and S. Wilkes Dendy, Presbyterian pastor, and J. L. Clegg, Baptist minister.

NEGRO'S LYNCHING AROUSES PROTEST

Women's Methodist Missionary Society Condemns "Mob Violence."

The executive committee of the Woman's Missionary Society of the North Georgia Methodist Conference condemned yesterday the lynching of A. L. McCamy, a negro, near Dalton, last Sunday.

Constitution

Atlanta, Ga.

"The lynching cannot pass unnoticed and uncondemned," said a statement adopted unanimously at a meeting of the committee here. "For the fourth time in 10 months we are forced by the acts of Georgia citizens to condemn a specific crime of mob murder.

"We, the executive committee of the Woman's Missionary Society of the North Georgia Conference, hold that this condemnation arises in part from the realization that these violations of the constitution and of the courts will inevitably lead to the destruction of our Christian civilization.

"Therefore, in a spirit of renewed courage we shall continue our fight against mob violence in every form and for any reason."

9/12/36

The committee is composed of officers and secretaries of the 10 districts of the North Georgia Conference.

The lynched negro was accused of an attempted attack on a white woman.

PITTMAN ORDERS JURY TO PROBE LYNCHING

Constitution

Judge, in Charging Whitfield Body, Describes Act as 'Wholesale Murder.'

10-7-36

DALTON, Ga., Oct. 6.—Declaring that "lynching is wholesale murder by those who participate or stand by to aid others in the commission of the crime," Judge Claude C. Pittman, in his charge to the Whitfield county grand jury, ordered the body to investigate the lynching here on September 6, last, of A. L. McCain, negro, who was being held in connection with the attempted attack on a woman.

Atlanta, Ga.

In his charge relative to the lynching, Judge Pittman said:

"Since the last term of court, you have had a lynching in this county. A crowd of men who constituted themselves as guardians of the law and order in this community and for their purpose said 'We are the law, we are the order, we are the executioners. To hell with officers, courts and jurors. You are too slow for us. We are not willing to trust in the deeds our fathers have done, live by the laws our fathers have made, or respect the officers and jurors that we ourselves have selected.'

"I charge you that death by lynching—it is the killing of a human being with malice aforethought. It is the deliberate, malicious, intentional killing of a human creature, and that makes murder. All who participate, aid and abet another in the commission of a crime are equally guilty with the actual perpetrator of the crime.' Therefore, lynching is wholesale murder."

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Indiana

5327

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
NEWS
APR 14 1936

MOB DAMAGE

Indiana's supreme court has decided that counties were not liable for damages under the provisions of an act of 1931, in cases where citizens were the victims of mob violence. The law, intended to protect prisoners from lynchers, was enacted after two men had been taken from the jail in Marion and hanged. It provided that where a person in the custody of a sheriff should be lynched, the Governor would declare the sheriff's office vacant. Subsequently, the sheriff could be reinstated if he showed that he was diligent in his efforts to protect his prisoner. The law further provided that members of a mob should be punished and that the dependents of any person taken from a jail and lynched might recover damages from the county. What broadened the scope of the statute was a section saying that any person who was assaulted by a mob and did not suffer death might recover damages up to $10,000. A mob was defined as any collection of individuals numbering five or more, "assembled for any unlawful purpose or offering violence to the person or property of any one supposed to have been guilty of a violation of the law or for the purpose of exercising correctional powers or regulative powers over any person or persons by violence, and without lawful authority."

Not long after this act went into effect there were mine disorders in southern Indiana, and five miners who alleged that they were assaulted and injured by a mob in Sullivan county brought individual actions for $7,500 damages. Similar cases were filed in other counties where disorder occurred and the legislature repealed the law. The Sullivan county actions had been filed while the statute was in effect and they went up to the supreme court on appeal.

The majority of the court in this case reasoned that the law applied only to persons guilty of a crime and in custody. Judge Treanor in a dissenting opinion, contended that the purpose of the law was to protect citizens from any collection of persons who sought to substitute mob rule for regularly constituted authority.

Louisiana

5328

Lynchings - 1936

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

SYRACUSE, N. Y.
HERALD

MAY 29 1936

A LYNCHING AND A LAWSUIT

A strange suit for compensation was recently staged in the Federal Court at New Orleans. Some time ago a Negro was lynched in a Louisiana county. The victim's parents brought suit for $2,500 damages against the Sheriff of the county in which mob law was executed. Ordinarily such an action would promise so slight a chance of recovery that the Sheriff wouldn't have much occasion to worry. But, as it happened, the plaintiffs were citizens of Arkansas, and the Federal Court was able to take jurisdiction in the proceedings against a Louisiana official. The Federal jury awarded the amount of damages claimed. It is difficult to imagine such an outcome in the average Southern State court.

If every Southern Sheriff in charge of a Negro prisoner should face the probability of being mulcted in damages, the lynching record would doubtless be considerably reduced. In that event, self-interest alone would prompt the Sheriff to protect the accused Negro in his official custody with a sufficient guard. The invocation of the Federal power to deal with this was the object of the Wagner-Costigan Anti-Lynching bill, which Senator Borah strenuously opposed as a denial of State rights and, in his judgment, a palpable violation of the Constitution. In the late primaries in Illinois and Ohio, the Senator's attitude on this question was made a political issue by some of his opponents in order to prejudice Negro voters.

ST. PAUL, MINN.
DISPATCH

MAY 27 1936

Liability for Lynchings.

In what is described as the first decision of its kind on record a white jury in a federal court in Louisiana awarded $2,500 damages to the parents of a Negro who had been lynched.

The suit was filed against the sheriff and his surety, alleging that he was negligent in his duty in not preventing the lynching. This verdict may be significant as indicating [illegible] public opinion that officers in whose custody a prisoner is placed should be held responsible for the safety of that prisoner. In most of these mob murders the victim is taken after an arrest. Of the twenty lynchings perpetrated last year, thirteen of the victims were in the hands of the law [illegible] killed. In five cases the mob broke [illegible] jails. In all of these instances more careful and resolute efforts at protection might have resulted had the sheriff been confronted by the prospect of having to pay substantial damages for neglect of duty.

The Louisiana verdict may very well set a precedent in any state where a lynching of arrested persons takes place.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Louisiana

5329

BURLINGTON, N. C.
TIMES NEWS

MAY 22 1936

ONE LYNCHING BILL IS PAID

A PRECEDENT presumably without any parallel in Southern legal history was established in Louisiana when a jury of white persons granted the Negro parents of a 16-year-old lynching victim $2,500 damages in a suit against the sheriff who allegedly permitted the crime.

The verdict directed Sheriff Lezin H. Himel of Assumption Parish and his surety to pay the damages on the grounds of negligence in failing to prevent the lynching. The plaintiffs produced evidence tending to show that two of Himel's deputies not only surrendered the prisoner to the mob, but actually assisted in the lynching.

Certainly as a precedent, this award —made as it was by white jurors, against a white official, and in a rural county of the "Deep South"—speaks most favorably for a more wholesome psychology on the lynching problem in view of the race prejudice and bitter feelings that are supposed to be part and parcel of the communion of the white and the black races in the South, this action indicates a definite hope for better understanding in the future and of the whites' deeper sense of obligation and responsibility toward the Negro.

One thing is certain: it will be a long, long time before there are any more lynchings in Assumption Parish, Louisiana—at least with official sanction or even official apathy. No lesson is taken so keenly to heart, with resultant reform, as that lesson which knicks the pocketbook so deeply.

All in all, this jury's award is one more example of the efficacy that would distinguish enactment of an anti-lynching measure such as that proposed by the Costigan-Wagner measure now gathering dust in Congressional pigeon-holes. This bill, proposing to fine counties in which lynchings occur $10,000 (which automatically goes to the survivors of the victim), has been repeatedly introduced in Congress—and repeatedly spiked by action of Southern senators.

Pleading the venerable alibi of "state's rights", these solons have continued to lend indirect sanction to that crime of mass murder of which no section is guiltless; but of which the South, indisputably, is guiltier by far than any other.

Well, if it is up to the separate states to promulgate their own lynching reforms, let this example set in Louisiana be a guiding star. The sooner either Congress enacts an anti-lynching statute, or the separate states of the Southland take such action, the sooner will a stigmata of dark and evil violence that has long disfigured the South. be removed.

Hendersonville N C Times
May 22, 1936

Negro's Parents Get Damages In Lynching Death

Louisiana Award First of Kind in Legal History of the South

NEW ORLEANS, La., May 22. (UP).—The parents of a 16-year-old negro boy lynched near Abadieville, La., in 1933, were awarded $2,500 damages from Sheriff Lezin H. Himel of Assumption parish yesterday by a jury of white men in federal court.

It was probably the first time in the history of the South that negroes won personal damages for a lynching.

Prosecution witnesses said two deputy sheriffs delivered the boy to the mob and that one deputy abetted the lynchers. The boy, Fred Moore, was suspected of murdering Miss Annie Mae LaRose, who was found in a cane field with her throat cut. Later, the girl's stepfather was said to have confessed to the murder.

The money was awarded to Louis and Lilly Moore, the parents. They sued for $10,000. The jury deliberated one hour.

Johnston Armstrong, attorney for the negro couple, told the jury there was no similar case in Louisiana jurisprudence. R. B. Eleazer, education secretary of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation at Atlanta, said that while South Carolina and probably one or two more southern states had laws automatically awarding $2,000 damages to the families of lynched men, against the counties involved. That he knew of no other case in which a negro had collected damages.

Moore was taken from jail and hanged to bridge over Bayou La-Fourche on the night of Oct. 11, 1933.

Lynched Youth's Parents Awarded $2,500 Damages

Journal

Decision of Jury Hailed As Step Forward By Southern Bar

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Declared as a noteworthy decision and a triumph for justice, prominent Negro attorneys throughout the South are outspoken in hetir praise of a white Federal Court jury which, on May 21, returned a verdict awarding damages of $2,500 to the parents of Fred Moore, who was lynched by a mob on October 11, 1933, near Abadieville, La.

The white jury decreed that Sheriff Lezin H. Himel of Assumpton Parish, must pay damages to Louis and Lilly Moore, whose 16-year-old son was taken from the Abadieville jail and hanged to a bridge.

Deputies in Mob

Evidence was produced tending to show that two of Himel's deputies assisted the lynchers, though Himel denied the charge. One deputy, Abel Landry, testified the mob, of between 50 and 100 persons overpowered him and took the keys to the jail cell occupied by Moore.

Presiding Judge Wayne B. Borah told the jury, they must consider the action of the deputies binding on the sheriff.

The Moores had asked $10,000 damages from Sheriff Himel, and his surety, the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company.

The damage verdict was the third unprecedented verdict for Negroes in Southern courts in two days. On Wednesday an Atlanta jury acquitted a Negro accused of attacking a white woman who had identified him in court. Last week, also, a jury in a North Carolina city found a white man guilty of barring Negroes from the polls. He was fined $500.

R. B. Eleazer, of Atlanta University, chairman of the commission of interracial cooperation, said that his records dating back to 1882, showed the case of the Moores was unique.

"Investigation of scores of lynchings show officers have been responsible either through negligence or actual connivance," Eleazer said.

"When such can be proved, the officials involved undoubtedly ought to be made to answer both to the law and the families of the victims."

Winston-Salem, N. C. Journal
May 26, 1936

More of This Would Help

After a trial in federal court a Louisiana jury has decided that a sheriff in that state who permitted a white mob to lynch a Negro placed in his keeping, must pay a damage penalty of $2,500 to the parents of the lynching bee victim.

In this case it turned out afterward that the Negro who was lynched was the wrong man. A Negro had attacked a white woman and murdered her. The mob didn't take time to reason out the thing. No mob ever does. When the sheriff picked up a suspect it promptly went to the jail and got him, made him acquainted with Judge Lynch. In doing so it avenged no wrong but simply committed murder.

The sheriff has been severely penalized for failure to uphold his sworn duty. A failure to do one's duty embraces both the acts of commission and omission. A sheriff or other law enforcement officer who winks his eye and looks in the other direction when extra-legal deeds are being committed is responsible morally for the deed and its consequences.

It is encouraging to learn that in one Southern state, and in the deep South, too, a jury has been found which has the courage to penalize an officer who thus fails to do his duty when the mob rages. If more cases of this nature were brought into court and more negligent officers penalized, it would go far toward breaking up mobbery, hoodlumism and lynching in the South.

Baton Rouge, La., Advocate
May 22, 1936

Anti-Lynch Leaders Cheered Award to Parents of Lynched N [illegible]

New Orleans, May 22. (AP)—Anti-lynching leaders today hailed the court award here of $2,500 damages to the parents of a negro boy hanged by a mob as a new method of controlling such lawlessness.

The parents of Fred Moore, 16, who had been arrested in connection with the murder of a white girl, won the award in federal district court on the contention that he was lynched as a result of the negligence of officers.

The judgment was against Sheriff Lezin H. Himel of Assumption parish, in which the lynching occurred at Labadieville. Two negro witnesses testified that two deputies sheriff took part in the hanging. The deputies denied the charges.

R. B. Eleazer, chairman of the commission on interracial co-operation, said the action, believed almost unprecedented in the South, opened a new way to forestall lynchings.

"I believe this method of civil attack directly upon the individual officer in the case may prove more effective than a penalty levied on a county, such as is proposed in the pending Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill," he said.

"There have been a few cases in the South of the survivors of lynching victims obtaining verdicts against counties in which the acts occurred, but as far as I know, none of these judgments ever was collected by the plaintiffs."

He would not say whether the commission would extend legal aid in any such damage suits in the future but said he felt certain the group's officers would "look with interest" on the incident.

Lezin H. Himel, of Assumption parish and his bondsmen. An appeal was planned.

Negro witnesses testified two of Himel's deputies participated in the hanging. Moore was arrested in connection with the slaying of a white girl. The deputies denied the charges.

R. B. Eleazer, chairman of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, said in Atlanta the action opened a new avenue of attack on lynchings.

Savannah, Ga., Press
May 22, 1936

FIND NEW METHOD TO FIGHT MOB RULE

Court Award of $2,500 May Cause Lynching Decrease.

NEW ORLEANS, May 22 (AP).—Foes of lynching today hailed a new method of combating mob rule as a result of a $2,500 court award to parents of a negro boy hanged by a band of Louisiana men in 1933.

Parents of Fred Moore, 16, won the award from a white jury in federal district court here yesterday. They contended he was lynched because of [illegible] of officers.

[illegible] against Sheriff

A Blow At Lynching

Age-Herald

5-25-36

Birmingham, Ala

The Federal District Court at New Orleans, with the outstanding Judge Wayne B. Borah presiding, and a jury of white men last week struck what cannot fail to be another powerful blow at the old and barbaric but, let it be hoped, passing custom of lynching.

Back in 1933 a Negro was killed by a mob in Louisiana. His parents, as residents of another state, Arkansas, took a suit for damages against a sheriff, charging negligence, into the federal court. Evidence was produced to show two of the sheriff's deputies assisted the lynchers, though the deputies denied it on the stand. The sheriff himself swore he had no advance knowledge of the crime. Judge Borah instructed the jurors that they must consider the action of the deputies binding on the sheriff. The parents of the lynched 16-year-old Negro asked $10,000 damages of the sheriff. The jury's verdict directed that the sheriff and his surety pay damages of $2,500.

The Age-Herald, of course, has no idea of how many, if any, sheriff's backbones will be stiffened and how much sheriff's vigilance will be sharpened, in the face of a threat of mob law, as a direct result of this verdict. It does not know whether it will affect sheriffs' surety rates. But it does know that it would be a mighty fine thing if the news of this Southern white men's verdict were broadcast throughout the South and the rest of the country. It hopes particularly that no sheriff will 'miss hearing about the verdict. And it is hopeful that thus the moral and practical effect of the jury's stand will be multiplied to a maximum.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
TIMES-PICAYUNE

MAY 22 1936

$2500 Judgment Given Parents of Lynching Victim

Award Is Made by Federal Court Jury in Suit for $10,000

Judgment for $2500 was awarded Thursday by a jury in federal court in favor of Louis and Lilly Moore, negroes, who sued Sheriff Lezin H. Himel of Assumption parish and his surety, the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company, for $10,000 damages in connection with the lynching on October 11, 1933, at Labadieville, of Fred Moore, son of the plaintiffs.

The victim was taken from the jail at Napoleonville and hanged at a bridge near his home at Labadieville. The plaintiffs contended that the sheriff, with proper precaution, could have averted the lynching.

Abel Landry, deputy sheriff under Mr. Himel, said from the witness stand Thursday that on the night of the lynching he had been forced to turn over the jail keys to the mob which lynched Moore.

Sheriff Himel testified that he had no warning of mob violence until a short time before the lynching and that when he rushed to the jail the mob had left with the prisoner.

CHICAGO, ILL.
TRIBUNE

MAY 28 1936

PUNISHMENT OF LYNCHING.

Two southern juries—one in Bartow, Fla., the other in New Orleans—have recently returned verdicts to punish lynching. The victims in Florida were white men. They were labor organizers who were dragged by five policemen from a Socialist political meeting in a private home in Tampa, to be flogged, tarred and feathered. One man died as a result of the beating he received. The policemen have been found guilty of kidnaping.

The verdict in the Louisiana case came in a civil suit against the sherif of Assumption parish. The evidence showed that three years ago a Negro was lynched in Labadieville, La. His parents lived in Arkansas. They brought suit in the federal District court in New Orleans, charging that the sherif had been negligent in his duty to protect the victim. A jury composed of whites fixed the damages at $2,500.

The two verdicts provide welcome evidence, though by no means the first evidence, to show that the decent majority of white men and women in the south loathe lynching and do not hesitate to punish those responsible for it. Lynching is not a southern monopoly, but it is in the rural south that most of the lynchings occur and it is only there that mob action is widely accepted as a proper substitute for trial at law. It was no accident that the perpetrators of the Black legion murder in Detroit were recent arrivals from the rural south.

All decent Americans are ashamed of the nation's lynching record; these recent verdicts show that southerners are no exception to the rule. If a means can be found of bringing the mob leaders to trial before an unprejudiced jury the guilty will be punished. In that fact lies much of the justification for the proposals to transfer the punishment of lynchers to the federal courts.

ASHEVILLE, N. C.
TIMES

MAY 23 1936

WHOLESOME RECORD

History was made in American jurisprudence, Thursday in New Orleans, when a jury of white men in Federal Court awarded $2,500 damages to the parents of a 16-year-old Negro boy lynched in 1933 near Abadieville, La.

The boy was hanged by a mob for the alleged murder of Miss Annie Mae Larose. Afterward, the girl's stepfather was said to have confessed the crime.

In South Carolina and possibly one or two other Southern states damages are automatically awarded to the families of persons lynched, but this is said to be the first instance in which an order for collection of such indemnity has actually become a court record.

The precedent is timely, and possibly it may help to scotch the renewed movement in Washington to bring again before Congress a federal anti-lynching bill.

In that intermittent struggle over federal invasion of state police power, it is a thing strange to behold when Republican Senator Borah loses Negro votes in his primary contests because of his declared opposition to the proposed anti-lynching law and Democrats in Senate and House eagerly come forward to strike down a main pillar in the structure of states' rights.

Lynchings - 1936
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Louisiana.

5330

$2,500 Is Awarded In South's First Lynching Damage Lawsuit

NEW ORLEANS, May 21.—(AP)—A U. S. District Court jury today awarded a negro couple $2,500 damages in a suit filed against Sheriff Lezin H. Himel, of Assumption Parish, for failure to protect their son from a mob which stormed the jail at Napoleonville, the night of Oct. 11, 1933, and lynched him.

In what was believed to be the first case of its kind ever decided in this State, or perhaps in the entire South, an all-white jury after deliberating less than an hour held that Sheriff Himel was responsible for the actions of his deputies, two of whom were charged in the suit with aiding in the lynching of 16-year-old Fred Moore. Moore had been arrested the day before in connection with the slaying of a young white girl whose body, with her throat cut was found in a cane field near Labadieville.

The suit had been directed against Sheriff Himel and his surety, the United States Guaranty and Fidelity Company, but was dismissed against the surety on an exception to the court's jurisdiction.

The suit came under jurisdiction of the Federal Court because the victim's parents, Louis and Lilly Moore, were residents of another State, Arkansas.

Seeing in the Moore case the possibility for a precedent in similar cases hereafter, R. B. Eleazer, chairman of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, declared it to be the first of its kind on record.

"I'm unfamiliar with the facts of this case," Eleazer said in a statement issued at Atlanta, "but on investigation of scores of lynchings officers have been shown to be directly responsible either through negligence or actual connivance.

"When such can be proved the officials involved undoubtedly ought to be made to answer both to the law and the families of the victims.

"Consequently we will watch the outcome of this case as of far-reaching importance."

Johnston Armstrong, attorney for the negro couple, declared the verdict was "the first of its kind ever returned in Louisiana."

The Moores in their suit had charged that two of the sheriff's deputies, Fernand Richard and Abel Landry, aided in the lynching and that the sheriff was negligent in not providing protection for their son against the mob. They asked $10,000.

In his charge to the jury, Judge Wayne G. Borah pointed out that actions of the deputies sheriff were binding on the sheriff.

Two of the plaintiff's witnesses, Ivor Leblanc and Norman Thibodaux, negroes, testified that they witnessed the torture and hanging of Moore on a bridge near Labadieville. Thibodaux testified if it were not for the intervention of a white man he would have been lynched too, as he had been seized and a rope placed around his neck and that he was hanging with his toes touching the ground.

Both he and Leblanc testified that Richard and Landry aided the mob.

Landry, one of the last defense witnesses today, testified that a mob of 50 to 100 men appeared at the jail and overpowered him, taking the keys and removing the negro from his cell.

He said he did not have time to call the sheriff, but on cross-examination admitted that between 15 and 20 minutes elapsed between the arrival of the mob and their departure with the negro.

Other defense witnesses testified there had been no signs of impending violence, although feeling ran high in the Labadieville section, and that they believed the sheriff could handle the situation. The sheriff and his deputies entered categorical denials of charges that they were negligent or aided the mob.

Sheriff Himel's attorneys said they would seek a new trial, and that if they were denied they would take the case to a higher Federal Court on suspensive appeal.

VERDICT AWARDED IN LYNCHING CASE

Negro Family Given $2,500 Judgment Against Louisiana Sheriff.

NEW ORLEANS, May 21.—(AP)—A federal court jury awarded a $2,500 judgment—described as the first of its kind on record—to the parents of a lynched negro today in a damage suit against a sheriff.

The verdict directed Sheriff Lezin H. Himel, of Assumption parish, and his surety, to pay the damages to Louis and Lilly Moore. Their 16-year-old son, Fred Moore, was lynched in 1933.

The Moores sued Himel for $10,000 charging him with negligence in failing to prevent the lynching.

They produced evidence tending to show two of Himel's deputies assisted the lynchers. The deputies denied the charge and Himel testified he had no advance knowledge of the mob action.

The case was carried to the federal court because the parents reside in another state, Arkansas.

Fred Moore, accused of killing a white girl, was seized the night of October 11, 1933, and lynched near Labadieville, La.

R. B. Eleazer, chairman of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, said in Atlanta his records dating back to 1882 showed the case was unique.

"Investigation of scores of lynchings show officers have been responsible either through negligence or actual connivance," Eleazer said.

"When such can be proved, the officials involved undoubtedly ought to be made to answer both to the law and the families of the victims."

NEW YORK, N. Y.
WORLD-TELEGRAM

MAY 25 1936

'Down with Violence' Should Be Our Motto

$2,500 Judgment to Negro Boy's Parents Indicates That There Is Hope for Justice.

By DOROTHY DUNBAR BROMLEY.

THE $2,500 judgment that has been awarded by a federal jury in Louisiana to the parents of a Negro boy lynched three years ago won't bring back their son, ~~but it will~~ at least give them the feeling that white men are capable of putting justice before race prejudice.

The verdict gives this column the feeling that there's hope for the South if a jury of white men are willing in effect to say that a lynching was a horrible mistake. By voting the damages, shockingly inadequate as they are, the jury in question has laid the blame for a lynching where it belongs—at the door of the sheriff who allegedly failed to protect a prisoner against death at the hands of his own deputy sheriffs.

Dorothy Dunbar Bromley.

Young Fred Moore had been arrested for the murder of a white woman, and after justice had taken its natural course another man confessed to the murder, according to the news report. Given these facts, it's hard to see how any jury, federal or State, could have denied the suit for damages brought against the sheriff by the boy's parents. But so is it hard to see how successive juries in the Scottsboro case could have sentenced to death five boys for an attack on two girls of the road, one of whom denies that they were attacked.

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Should Be Tried in State Courts.

FOR the very reason that justice has so often miscarried in the South, we should hail a court decision that sets a new standard. Unfortunately, the federal court can't complete the job. If the deputy sheriffs did kidnap the 16-year-old boy and help lynch him, they should be tried in the State courts for murder without further ado. Since the law demands an eye for an eye when a white man is killed, it should demand the same when a Negro is killed. The idea that any human being's life can be paid for in money is a relic of the days when slaves were sold on the block.

At all events, the federal court may have hit on a practical method of stopping lynchings. If a sheriff, whose bounden duty is to enforce the law, is heavily fined when the men he has deputized to act in his stead turn into hangmen, he will pick a different breed of deputies the next time he jails a Negro prisoner. To protect his bank account he may become the prisoner's own bodyguard, and he will lose no time in sending for the militia when there's a lynching in the air. Socking the sheriff personally with damages may be much more effective than making the county where a lunching occurs pay, as is proposed in the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill.

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Let's Say "Down with Violence."

NO federal law would be needed if the Southern States would confess their own sins. They say that they don't relish holier-than-thou criticism from Northerners so long as crimes of violence are committed on this side of the Mason and Dixon line. There's some point to their retort. In Denver, Col., children who must have learned violence from their elders recently got the lynching bee and attempted to hang a schoolmate of whom they were jealous. And in Detroit a band of men calling themselves the Black Legion is charged with taking it upon themselves to kill a man, who must have been an enemy, on the pretext that he had beaten his wife. So long as King Mob rules, the North can hardly plume itself on being further removed from barbarism than the South. So let's not preach, but let's say, "Down with violence wherever it sticks up its Gorgon head."

NEW YORK, N. Y.
TIMES

MAY 22 1936

White Jury Gives $2,500 To Kin of Lynched Negro

By The Associated Press.

NEW ORLEANS, May 21.—A Federal court jury awarded a $2,500 judgment, described as the first of its kind on record, to the parents of a lynched Negro today in a damage suit against a Sheriff.

The verdict directed Sheriff Lezin H. Himel of Assumption Parish and his surety to pay the damages to Louis and Lilly Moore. Their 16-year-old son, Fred Moore, was lynched in 1933. He was accused of killing a white girl.

The Moores sued Himel for $10,000 charging him with negligence in failing to prevent the lynching.

They produced evidence tending to show that two of Himel's deputies assisted the lynchers. The deputies denied the charge, and Himel testified that he had no advance knowledge of the mob action.

Presiding Judge Wayne B. Borah told the jury, composed of white persons, that they must consider the action of the deputies binding on the Sheriff.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
TRIBUNE

MAY 22 1936

Sheriff Must Pay $2500 For Lynching Of Negro, 16

A jury composed entirely of white men yesterday for the first time in the history of Louisiana, and probably the South, handed down a verdict for damages as the result of a Negro's lynching.

Out only one hour, the jury, sitting in Federal Judge Borah's court, held that Sheriff Lezin H. Himel of Assumption parish must pay $2500 to Louis and Lilly Moore, parents of Fred Moore, 16-year-old Negro lynched October 11, 1933.

The parents charged the sheriff was negligent in failing to protect the youth while he was in jail at Labadieville. Ivory LeBlanc, Negro, testified that while he was a prisoner in the same jail as young Moore the latter was removed from the building by Deputies Abel Landry and Fernand Richard and cried out, "Oh, you're killing me."

Young Moore's arrest followed the discovery of the body of Miss Annie Mae LaRose, her throat slashed, in a cane field near Labadieville. After Moore was lynched, the girl's stepfather confessed

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NEW YORK, N. Y.
SUN

MAY 22 1936

FOES OF LYNCHING HAIL DAMAGE SUIT

Award to Parents of Boy Suggests Weapon.

NEW ORLEANS, May 22 (A. P.)—Foes of lynching today hailed a new method of combating mob rule as a result of a $2,500 court award to parents of a Negro boy hanged by a band of Louisiana men.

The parents of Fred Moore, 16 years old, won the award from a white jury in the Federal District Court here yesterday. They contended he was lynched near Labadieville in October, 1933, because of the negligence of officers.

The judgment was against Sheriff Lezin H. Himel of Assumption parish, and his bondsmen. Counsel for the defendant said they would appeal.

Two Negro witnesses testified that two of Sheriff Himel's deputies participated in the hanging, which occurred after the arrest of Moore in connection with the slaying of a white girl. The deputies denied the charges.

R. B. Eleazer, chairman of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, said in Atlanta the action opened a new avenue of attack on lynchings.

"I believe this method of civil attack directly upon the individual officer may prove more effective than a penalty levied on a county, such as is proposed in the pending Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill," he said.

"There have been a few cases in the South of the survivors of lynching victims obtaining damage verdicts against counties in which the acts occurred, but, as far as I know none of these judgments ever was collected by the plaintiffs."

He would not predict whether the commission would extend legal aid in any such damage suits in the future, but said he felt certain the group's officers would "look with great interest" upon the possibilities opened up by the incident.

The case was heard in Federal Court, counsel for the plaintiffs said, because Moore's parents lived in Arkansas.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
HERALD-TRIBUNE

MAY 22 1936

Jury Gives Parents $2,500 For Lynching of Negro

Couple Asked U. S. Court in New Orleans for $10,000

NEW ORLEANS, May 21 (AP).—A jury in Federal District Court today returned a verdict awarding damages of $2,500 to the parents of Fred Moore, Negro, who was lynched by a mob near Labadieville, La., on October 11, 1933.

The case was one of the first such damage suits growing out of a lynching. It was taken to Federal Court counsel for the plaintiffs said, on the ground that the parents of Moore were residents of another state, Arkansas.

The Moore couple filed suit for $10,000 damages against Sheriff Lezin H. Himel, of Assumption Paris, and his surety, the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company, alleging that the Sheriff was negligent in his duty in not preventing the lynching.

N. Y. EVENING POST

MAY 22 1936

LYNCH FOES HAIL DAMAGE VERDICT

See Precedent Set by Award of $2,500 to Parents of Negro Victim

NEW ORLEANS, May 22 (AP).—Foes for lynching today hailed a new method of combating mob rule as a result of a $2,500 court award to parents of a Negro boy hanged by a band of Louisiana men.

The parents of Fred Moore, sixteen, won the award from a white jury in Federal District Court here yesterday. They contended he was lynched near Labadieville in October, 1933, because of the negligence of officers.

The judgment was against Sheriff Lezin H. Himel of Assumption Parish and his bondsmen. Counsel for the defendant said they would appeal.

Two Negro witnesses testified that two of Himel's deputies participated in the hanging which occurred after the arrest of Moore in connection with the slaying of a while girl. The deputies denied the charges.

R. B. Eleazer, chairman of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, said in Atlanta that the action opened a new avenue of attack on lynchings.

"I believe this method of civil attack directly on the individual officer may prove more effective than a penalty levied on a county, such as is proposed in the pending Costigan-Wagner Federal anti-lynching bill," he said.

"There have been a few cases in the South of the survivors of lynching victims obtaining damage verdicts against counties in which the acts occurred, but, as far as I know, none of these judgments ever was collected by the plaintiffs."

He would not predict whether the commission would extend legal aid in any such damage suits in the future but said he felt certain the group's officers would "look with great interest" on the possibilities opened up by the incident.

The case was heard in Federal Court, counsel for the plaintiffs said, because Moore's parents lived in Arkansas.

Cleveland, Tenn. Banner
May 22, 1936

NEGRO'S DEATH BY LYNCHING BRINGS VERDICT

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Louisiana Sheriff Must Pay $2,500 to Parents Federal Jury Says

By EARLE B. STEELE

NEW ORLEANS, La., May 21.—(U.P.)—The parents of a 16-year-old Negro boy lynched near Abadieville, La., in 1933, were awarded $2,500 damages from Sheriff Iezin H. Himel of Assumption Parish late yesterday by a jury of white men in federal court.

It was probably the first time in the history of the South that Negroes won personal damages for a lynching.

Prosecution witnesses said two deputy sheriffs delivered the boy to the mob and that one deputy abetted the lynchers. The boy, Fred Moore, was suspected of murdering Miss Annie Mae Larose, who was found in a cane field with her throat cut. Later, the girl's stepfather was said to have confessed to the murder.

The money was awarded to Louis and Lilly Moore, the parents. They sued for $10,000. The jury deliberated one hour.

Johnston Armstrong, attorney for the Negro couple, told the jury there was no similar case in Louisiana jurisprudence. R. B. Eleazer, education secretary of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation at Atlanta, said that while South Carolina and probably one or two more southern states had laws automatically awarding $2,000 damages to families of lynched men, against the counties involved, that he knew of no other case in which a Negro had collected damages.

Moore was taken from jail and hanged to a bridge over bayou Lafourche on the night of Oct. 11, 1933.

Testifying for the prosecution, Norman Thibodaux, Negro youth, told with natural drama how he was taken to witness the lynching and nearly shared the same fate because some members of the mob believed he might have had a part in the killing. He said Deputy Sheriff Fernand Richard took him to the scene.

"Mr. Richard held the boy's (Moore's) arms, while some other men beat him. Then they hung him up by his neck, right in front of me. Some little boys run and got a new rope and they beat me over the head and then strung me up, so my toes were just touching the ground. I had to stretch all I could to get a little air."

Thibodaux said the mob decided to spare him, cut him down, took him down the road, told him to run, and fired a shot over his head. He ran through the darkness into a cane field and lay bleeding until the mob had gone, he said.

Another Negro witness, Ivory Leblanc, said he was in jail when Moore was taken out for lynching. He said Deputy Sheriff Abel Landry and Fernand Richard took Moore from the jail and he heard the boy scream: "You're killing me."

The Sheriff was named in the suit on the grounds that he was negligent in failing to protect Moore. Defense witnesses testified there had been no signs of impending violence, and the sheriff could have had no knowldege of what was to happen.

TIMES
Palo Alto Cal

MAY 23 1936

Stranger Than Fiction

On October 11, 1933, a mob of white men lynched a Negro near Labadieville, La. This week a white jury in Federal District Court in New Orleans awarded a verdict of $2500 damages to the parents of the lynched boy. The verdict was the outcome of a suit filed for $10,000 against the sheriff of the parish, charging him with negligence in duty in not preventing the lynching.

Those acquainted with the southern viewpoint will decide, upon reading this, that unexpected things do happen, and that truth can be stranger than fiction.

Lynchings-1936
&
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Michigan
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NEW FLOGGING LAID TO BLACK LEGION; FIVE ARE ARRESTED

New York Times 5-27-36

Jackson County Man Whipped by Group of 25 to 50 for Trying to Quit Band.

ALL STATE ASKED TO ACT

Michigan Attorney General Calls on Citizens to Give Data to Secret Inquiries.

M'CREA'S NAME ON BLANK

But Prosecutor Says He Was a 'Joiner'—Society Suspected in Coughlin Shrine Fire.

By WILL LISSNER

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DETROIT, May 26.—Five more members of the Black Legion were arrested today on a warrant charging violence and prosecutors in all counties in the State were called upon by David H. Crowley, State Attorney General, to start inquiries.

The new arrests came as the one-man grand jury in Jackson uncovered a new flogging case, laid by the prosecution to guards at the Michigan State Prison and others, and brought the total of members of the hooded cult now under arrest to eighteen.

While law enforcement authorities engaged in a concerted effort to get at the bottom of the terrorist movement, two more State employes were detached from the payroll for being members of the band. This device is to be used by State, County and city authorities to break up the organization, one of the strengths of which has been its ability to get jobs for its members.

Duncan C. McCrea, Wayne County Prosecuter, who is pressing murder and kidnapping warrants against thirteen Detroit members of the Black Legion, was himself drawn into the case today when one of its membership application blanks turned up bearing his name in what he said looked like his own handwriting.

McCrea Denies Membership

He may have joined unwittingly when he was campaigning for office, but he never belonged to the hooded cult and never took any oaths, he said. The handwriting was so close to his signature it either was his own or a tracing of his own, he added, declaring that the existence of the card was "one more reason why I am determined to smash this outfit.

In his general investigation Mr. McCrea questioned again two city employes who are ranking officers in the Black Legion and examined literature and arsenals seized in five raids early today in Ecorse

The five new arrests were in Jackson County. Justic of the Peace Earnest J. Rogers of Jackson, sitting as a one-man grand jury, issued the warrant, which named Allan Basom, an employe of the County Road Commission; Ray Ernest, State prison guard dismissed yesterday as a "brigade commander" of the armed, semicilitary cult after an arsenal, literature and documents were seized in his home, and John Doe, Richards Roe and others."

The new violence case is that of Harley Smith of Norvell, father of five children, who was abducted and flogged Nov. 5, allegedly because he sought to withdraw from the organization.

The "John Doe" part of the indictment will permit the arrest of all suspected persons, Prosecuter Owen Dudley of Jackson said. Between twenty-five and fifty persons took part in the ritualistic flogging, according to testimony brought out before the grand jury.

Others Held in New Case

Besides Basom and Ernest, those arrested on the warrant include Glenn and Clarence Ernest, brothers of Ray, factory workers, and Dite Hawley, prison guard also dismissed yesterday.

The arrests came as Attorney General Crowley was in Jackson conferring with Prosecutor Dudley and Captain William Hanson of the State police, assigned to the Jackson inquiry. The Jackson inquiry involves two suspicious fires and three floggings, as the death of Paul Avery, State prison guard, after a flogging. Ray Ernest was first accused in connection with the Avery case.

The call for State-wide investigation was sounded by Mr. Crowley following a conference in his office in Lansing with Oscar Olander, State Commissioner of Public Safety, police officials of Detroit and State police executives. The county prosecutors were asked to convene one-man grand juries wherever the evidence warrants such action. Mr. Crowley said that he expected inquiries would be held in at least five counties.

He also called upon residents of the State to provide the authorities with any information they might have, pointing out that as witnesses before the grand juries, which are secret proceedings, their identity would be protected and they could be afforded police protection. He would not name the counties, but those in which complaints of mob terror have appeared in the past few years are Wayne, Jackson, Oakland, Genessee and Monroe.

Confers at State Prison

While in Jackson, Mr. Crowley told Mr. Dudley that he was offering to extend the facilities of his office to any District Attorney who might need aid in pressing an investigation. He also conferred at the State prison with Warden Jackson.

The new removals from the State payroll were ordered by Warden Jackson, continuing his investigation with the aid of Mr. Dudley and Captain Hansen. He dismissed another prison guard today and suspended another. Information in the hands of the Jackson grand jury links four more guards to the cult and the warden believes the membership may have been larger.

The guard dismissed today was Sergeant Charles Cooley. The John Doe investigation brought out evidence that he had had Guard Charles Standish induced into the organization, the warden announced. Standish was only suspended, the warden said, because the evidence thus far bears out his story that he was induced to take part in the initiation meeting under false pretenses, having been invited to a "stag party." He declined later invitations to attend meetings in the woods, the evidence indicated.

According to witnesses, several hundred members of the Jackson "regiment" attended the meetings regularly. The Jackson "regiment" had between 600 an 1,600 members, and apparently was second in strength to that in Ecorse and other communities down the Detroit River.

More Cases Are Reopened

Elsewhere in the State a series of unsolved crimes of violence, including several murders, were reopened today, with evidence in two cases pointing to Black Legion terrorism, but no positive information.

One of these two cases was the slaying of Jack Bilak, reputed radical, who was taken out to Carleton, in Monroe County, by four men in two cars and shot to death in March, 1934. Bilak, a motor company employe, who had been involved in several automobile plant strikes, was found to have a membership card in a "Wolverine Republican Club," in addition to membership cards in two automobile workers' unions.

The club name is the same as that used by the Black Legion to cloak its political activities in Detroit, but the Detroit club appears to have been organized more recently.

No motive for the killing ever was found, according to Prosecutor Francis T. Ready, who reopened the case.

The other case was the shooting of George Marchuk, also a reputed radical, near his home in Lincoln Park, Wayne County, in December, 1933. Marchuk had been active in the Auto Workers Union, which was then dominated by Communists, according to Acting Police Chief Floyd Crichton. It was learned today that Marchuk had moved to Lincoln Park after his previous home had been the target for shots from an automobile.

Pistol Permit Board Acts

At the request of Prosecutor McCrea the County Pistol Permit Board voted today to require all holders of permits to swear they are not members of the Black Legion or any other organizations with a subversive program. Mr. McCrea had found that Arthur Lupp, the city milk inspector who admits being "chief recruiting officer" and a "brigade commander" of the society, had a permit for the weapon he carries.

Mr. McCrea was highly amused when a reproduction of the application card bearing his name appeared in a local paper, but his wife was highly incensed.

She was on a shopping tour when she heard a newsboy shout, "McCrea linked to black cult," she related.

"What's that?" she demanded.

The newsboy repeated the headline.

"Young man, stop that," Mrs. McCrea demanded indignantly. "If you say such horrible things about my husband you'll be jailed."

She hastened to her husband's offices, insisting, excitedly, that he "put a stop to such nonsense." He reassured her and she left the office happily to continue her shopping.

The application card identified the signer as an assistant prosecutor and was written, apparently, in 1934. Mr. McCrea was an assistant prosecutor then and a Republican. The prosecutor became State Attorney General and Mr. McCrea running as a Democrat, defeated the chief assistant prosecutor for the District Attorney's office. The State administration is Republican and he is one of the few Democratic office holders.

Sponsor Formerly an Aide

The application card bore as sponsor the name of Ira Albright, which is that of a man Mr. McCrea appointed and then dismissed as an investigator early in his term.

Mr. McCrea said that if he signed the card, he could not recall it, because during his campaign he had "become a professional joiner like all politicians." He placed credence in the statement that the card was found in Black Legion headquarters, because it was an accident insurance prospect card of a kind Lupp and Wilbur Robinson, city employed machinist "brigade commander," said was used by the band. Mr. McCrea said he had not applied for insurance.

Mr. McCrea linked two recent bombings in Ecorse, Detroit suburb, one at the home of the Village President and the other at a resort, to the Black Legion following raids without warrants on five homes there. A quantity of ammunition and literature was seized and the occupants, including two former Councilmen, were questioned. None were arrested.

Lupp and Robinson made formal statements today admitting that they were ranking officers in the Black Legion. Lupp said that the legion had a women's auxiliary, but no evidence of its existence has been found here or in Jackson. Robinson said he was chairman of the Wolverine Club's entertainment committee.

Five fellow employes of Robinson were questioned at headquarters. They told of being initiated under compulsion at weird rites in the hall from which Charles Poole, young WPA worker, was taken to be shot to death by members of the band. They did not connect Robinson with the coercion, however. The men were discovered in the campaign of the city authorities to learn the identities of city employed members of the organization.

George C. Johnson, the prisoner among the thirteen in the Poole case who has not yet been arraigned, was still a patient in Receiving Hospital. He was said there to be suffering "acute indigestion" and not from any police maltreatment. The twelve others will be taken to Common Pleas Court tomorrow for examination.

Coughlin Fire Investigated

By The Associated Press.

DETROIT, May 26.—Prosecutor McCrea announced today that the fire which destroyed the Rev. Charles E. Coughlin's original Shrine of the Little Flower March 17 was on the list of unexplained fires his investigators are checking for a possible connection with the Black Legion terrorism.

"That is just one of a number of angles of our investigation," Mr. McCrea said. "Royal Oak (the site of the shrine) is out of our jurisdiction, but if we uncover any new evidence it will be turned over to authorities there."

There were rumors in Royal Oak that investigation of the explosion of a black powder bomb in the basement of Father Coughlin's home several years ago also would be reopened.

Father Coughlin said that he had heard nothing of renewed investigation of the shrine fire or the bombing and declined to discuss any possible connection between them and Black Legion activities.

Mr. McCrea also announced that he did not want the help offered by James A. Colescott, a Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, in investigating any acts of violence by the Black Legion. Colescott made the offer at Columbus, Ohio.

Band Limited to Relief Jobs

By The Associated Press.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, May 26.—A minority report of a legislative committee which investigated relief conditions in Ohio a year ago, officials said today, contained the testimony of a Lima man that many members of the Black Legion had been placed as foremen on Federal relief projects and that "members of the Black Legion got the most of the jobs on relief work."

The report, filed at the State House a week ago, quoted George Armstrong of Lima and said he testified that "he was a member of the Black Legion and had taken an oath to swear to a lie if necessary to protect its members."

James A. Colescott offered to Michigan authorities today the aid of the Ku Klux Klan in investigating the Black Legion.

Colescott, Grand Dragon in charge of Klan activities in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Kentucky, said that he made the offer to Charles Spare, assistant to Prosecutor McCrea of Wayne County, Mich.

"We have no connection with the Black Legion," Colescott said, "and we will cooperate with authorities not only in investigating cases of violence but any other acts of unlawfulness.

"I don't care what happens to the legion, but I am anxious to see that murderers are prosecuted and floggings are stopped."

Effinger Named in Job Inquiry

LIMA, Ohio, May 26 (AP).—Records of a State Senate committee investigation of the relief administration here disclosed tonight that V. F. Effinger, former Lima electrical contractor, was named by a witness as "leader" of the black legion.

The witness was George Armstrong, relief worker. He quoted Effinger as having said that as leader of the black legion he could control jobs in relief offices.

MANY DEATHS LAID TO 'BLACK LEGION'; KLAN LINK CHARGED

New York N.Y.

Michigan Police Suspect Cult Has Made Murders Seem Cases of Suicide.

10,000 MEMBERS IN COUNTY

Far-Flung Terrorism Alleged—Authorities Fear Society Extends Beyond State.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DETROIT, May 23.—New disclosures resulting from the murder of Charles A. Poole, 32-year-old WPA worker, who was slain by "night riders" of the Black Legion, indicated that the secret organization was an offshoot of the Ku Klux Klan, that it had underlying political, religious and racial significance, and that its membership was for more extensive than at first surmised. It was estimated today that more than 10,000 belong to the Black Legion in Wayne County alone.

Current theories attribute the murder of Poole to the supposed fact that he had intimate knowledge of the alleged terrorism of the organization. Prosecutor Duncan McCrea, who is preparing seven murder warrants against that many men of a group of sixteen Black Legion members now held by police, characterized as fantastic the original version of the slaying that Poole was killed because he had beaten his wife.

An examination of Mrs. Poole who gave birth to a child five days before the murder disclosed no evidence of beating, officials said.

Police now are proceeding on the theory that the secret society may have been implicated in other murders and that Poole, who publicly expressed disdain for the organization and its secrets, was murdered in the legion's interests.

Evidence has been presented, according to Mr. McCrea, that the legion demonstrated one phase of its terroristic activities during the Pontiac election of 1935, at which time three politicians were threatened with death. A former member who had deserted the band was kidnapped during the election and tied to a tree, the evidence showed.

Many Threats Reported

Mr. McCrea said today that he had received communications from scores of persons, hitherto afraid to speak, telling of death threats and other drastic forms of intimidation.

Another theory reported as under investigation concerns a statement that Poole was a Catholic and that his wife is a Protestant. Mr. McCrea said that available literature of the organization and information given by the prisoners revealed that Catholics, Jews and Negroes were the special targets of the secret society.

Poole was found dead in a ditch near Dearborn the morning of May 13. He had been brutally beaten and there were five shots in his body.

The night before this discovery fifty members of the society held a general meeting during which Poole's case was discussed. According to the confessions of two prisoners, Poole's name had come up after members reported that he had broken into the hospital ward and fractured two of his wife's ribs. It was decided then, the confessions held, that Poole should be "punished."

Times

Two members of the band were delegated to go to Poole's home and bring him, by a ruse, to the meeting hall for questioning. After the "trial," he was hustled into an automobile and taken to a lonely road near Dearborn, where members of the society set about his "execution."

5-24-36

Victim's Wife Questioned

Mrs. Poole, who was questioned today, told the police that she had been married to Poole for three years and that their domestic life had been serene. She said he never had raised a hand to her and always had been kind and considerate.

New York

Dayton Dean, an employe of the Detroit Public Lighting Company and one of the sixteen prisoners, has confessed, according to the police, that he fired five shots into Poole's body.

N.Y.

An investigator who termed Dean a "homicidal maniac," quoted the prisoner as having said:

"I didn't even have to aim—I was only five or six feet away. I thought it was my duty, according to our discussion."

Others of the group, police said, believed the shooting to have been a mistake. They believed that Poole was merely to be beaten—not murdered.

All sixteen prisoners are said to be members of the Wolverine Republican Club, which has no official connection with the county, State or national Republican party. The secret organiaztion also is known as the United Brotherhood of America. Each member, according to Mr. McCrea, subscribed to an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States, to forswear allegiance to every world power "except that of God and the United States," and to oppose communism, Semitism, Catholicism and the Negro race.

Oath at Point of a Pistol

The society's oath is said to be administered at the point of a pistol while members solemnly stand about, clad in their black or white death robes with hoods affixed. Only officers are permitted to wear the insignia of skull and crossbones. All members, Mr. McCrea said, are eligible only if they previously were affiliated with the Ku Klux Klan. Most of the legion members are natives of Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee and other Southern sections, according to the police.

In some quarters it was said the legion really originated as far back as the Boston Tea Party, and then disintegrated, to be succeeded generations later by the Klan which the legion in turn followed when the Klan passed out of active existence.

The other prisoners for whom Mr. McCrea has said that he would seek murder warrants Monday are Harvey Davis, "colonel" of the society; Irvin Lee, Urban Lipps, George C. Johnson, Paul R. Edwards and Edgar Baldwin.

William W. Voisine, president of the Village of Ecorse in Wayne County, today asked that the police investigate the possibility that the bombing of his home last Aug. 7 might have been instigated by the society.

At Lansing Captain L. H. Marmon of the State police announced that he would investigate several other "terror" deaths that might be laid at the door of the Black Legion. From Jackson there came a report that "Klansmen" killed a man in that city recently.

"We have received unconfirmed reports that members of this secret society have killed a number of other men and disguised their deaths as suicides," Captain Marmon declared. "There have been a number of questionable suicides in the State. We are going to check all missing persons, unsolved murders and doubtful suicides."

Inspector John I. Navarre of the Detroit Homicide Squad said that the legion had a far-flung organization in Detroit. He added that the city had ben divided into districts and that each district had its own sub-division similar to a political set-up.

Earlier in the day Adolph F. Marschner, Assistant County Judge, refused to issue writs of habeas corpus for the release of fifteen prisoners. Dean's release was not sought. Judge Marschner continued hearing the petition at the request of Mr. McCrea, who explained he will not know until Monday how many of the band would be charged with murder.

Release of Politician Refused

P. J. M. Halley, attroney for John B. Mitchell, 38-year old law student and politician involved in the investigation, sought unsuccessfully for the release of his client.

"He is absolutely innocent," Mr. Halley declared in court. "All the police have against him is that he addressed the meeting of the legion the night before Poole was killed."

Mr. McCrea replied that Mitchell "left with the group of night riders anw would have been in on the murder if his car had not been separated from the others in the caravan by the opening of a drawbridge."

"We have not yet decided if he will be involved in a conspiracy charge," the prosecutor added.

Later Mr. McCrea declared that Davis and Dean had stated in their confessions that the murder was a punishment for "Poole's mistreatment of his wife."

"We have found other evidence which convinces us that this was not the real motive," Mr. McCrea said.

"Since early today my telephone has been ringing with calls from persons complaining that they, too, were terrorized by this bunch of hoodlums, and we are certain Poole was killed because he talked too loudly against the society."

Lowell Rushing and Hershell, relatives of Mrs. Poole, were accused in the confessions by legion leaders of having instigated the mob violence which resulted in the death of Poole.

Black Legion On Run In Michigan

Advertiser

War For Extermination Is Hurried By Officers On Death, Kidnap Charges

5-30-36

Montgomery Ala.

DETROIT, May 29.—(AP)—The Blak Legion was reported on the run today before the campaign of extermination set in motion a week ago when the arrest of 13 men on kidnaping and murder charges disclosed the existence of the night riding terrorist society with its dream of a super-government.

Definite information that frightened members were burning the hoods and robes the secret order wore on its nocturnal flogging and arson expeditions was reported by Prosecutor Owen Dudley, of Jackson, a Black Legion stronghold where five men are held on charges of beating a fellow member.

"Twenty-two robes hidden in one house alone have been burned," Dudley said. "The back of the organization here has been broken. I don't believe that any Jackson County members have enough nerve left to commit further violence."

Admits He's Through

As Dudley was making his announcement, Arthur F. Lupp, admitted Michigan recruiting officer for the whip-wielding band, declared that "I've had enough. I'm through with the Black Legion."

Gov. Frank D. Fitzgerald took command of Michigan's war on the black cloaked brotherhood today while Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea assembled the evidence from a score of States which he hopes will permit the Department of Justice to enter the case.

Intervention of the Federal Government was urged in Atlanta, Ga., by Hiram W. Evans, imperial wizard of the Ku Klux Klan who denied his organization is related in any way to the Black Legion.

Police questioned Harold Dugas today concerning an organization styling itself the "American Vigilantes," but Dugas said "I never heard of the Black Legion until all this got in the papers."

Dugas, a 24-year-old factory worker said he had had some cards printed announcing creation of the "Vigilantes," but that "we had only one meeting, and four fellows and three girls came to it."

Blood Warning Sent

A warning, which Detective Richard Bowen, of the Detroit police laboratories said was printed in human blood, was received from New York by police here warning them in letters half an inch high to "lay off the Black Legion.—The White Legion."

The attorney general announced today that the State would take part in the trial of the men held for the "ritual execution" of Charles A. Poole, who "knew too much."

"There is no doubt that the Black Legion is a real threat," he said, "and I intend to go just as far as the law will allow in breaking it up."

He said he had not decided concerning the petition of a citizens' committee in Pontiac for a separate Grand Jury there.

Prosecutor McCrea said today that inquiries into the burning of Father Coughlin's original Shrine of the Little Flower March 17 were being continued, but that he had found "no new evidence strong whatever to convince me that the legion is responsible."

Lynchings - 1936

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Michigan.

5332

SOUTHERN HOOKWORMS TERRORIZE THE MIDDLE WEST

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.
6-3-36

The Advertiser has been deeply interested in this Black Legion scandal for a number of reasons, first because of the phenomenon itself and second because, if the law of averages is still operating, it was bound to come out that "the South" was responsible for the scandal, and so we were curious to see how long "the South" could escape exposure.

Well, we didn't have long to wait.

Here goes: Dr. William J. Shepard, obscure physician of Bellaire, Ohio, is the reputed national commander of the Black Legion.

V. H. Effinger, of Lima, Ohio, is reputed to be the leader of the society in Ohio, Michigan and Indiana.

Arthur F. Lupp is the reputed Michigan commander of the legion.

These are three primary factual exhibits.

Others are, as set forth by the North American Newspaper Alliance:

> Those members of the Legion held on charges of having murdered Poole are reminiscent of Neanderthal man. They are defective in intelligence, in education, in background, and in their social outlook. Even so they are roughly typical of the typical klansmen of ten years or more ago, when the white-hooded order all but dominated the governments of several of the States, and became an issue in a national political convention.

So much for the feinting and footwork. Now for the haymaker, as delivered by the same great news agency:

> Lupp and Effinger were both born in Southern States. If the sixteen men originally arrested in connection with Poole's death provide any cross-section, the majority of the rank and file members are from the ridges and gulleys of Tennessee, or from the deep South. Two-thirds of the men arrested were from Tennessee or Georgia or Kentucky. They are sallow, thin, pathetic types in whom there is scarcely even a spark of intelligence.

My Gawd! Is it that bad? It must be, for even The Chattanooga Times, taking all of this seriously, says philosophically:

> That description is not so much an indictment of the South as it is an indictment of a people. Behind the terrorist Black Legion and its Ku Klux background is a terrifying legion of underprivileged men and women whose ignorance, intolerance and bigotry are the products of their environment. They exist in every section. They are more numerous in the South than anywhere else because of an agricultural system which has reduced thousands of people to a condition of abject poverty. Only in their own warped imaginations is the Black Legionnaires' patron saint Quantrell, the Cicil War leader.
>
> Indications that Detroit policemen are members of the Black Legion are tymptomatic of a condition which further investigation will doubtless reveal more fully. It is impossible for a terrorist organization to exist on a large scale without the tolerance, if not the connivance, of law-enforcement officers. People who are familiar with the activities of the Ku Klux Klan of the 1920's, particularly in Georgia and other Southern States, recall that in almost every community where the Klan was active its members included sheriffs, policemen and city officials. A combination of ignorance, bigotry and brutality, along with the failure of those who are sworn to protect the public, accounts for the existence and growth of cowardly and murderous masked gangs.
>
> The connections between politics and crime which J. Edgar Hoover, of the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice, terms the real Public Enemies, are largely responsible for the growth of gangs like the Black Legion. Law-enforcement officers in Ohio, for example, have known of the existence of the legion for months. A committee of the Ohio Senate, in an investigation conducted last July, learned from George Armstrong, a relief worker, that he was a member of the Black Legion and that the order exacted of its members an oath to kill their enemies if necessary. "And who are their enemies?" Armstrong was asked. "Well," he answered, "any one that would oppose them." "You never heard of anybody getting killed, did you?" "I am not saying as to that," the witness answered.
>
> The legion oath was publicly known at that time. Yet not until nearly a year later, when a WPA worker was murdered and after people in several States had been flogged, was there made a determined effort to unmask the Black Legion and punish its members who are guilty of crimes.

Before this thing goes any further, let us get down to basic realities. The Advertiser does not doubt police records which indicate that the majority of the Black Legionnaires thus far arrested were Southern born; it has no reason to doubt that most of those expatriated Southerners come of underprivileged, undernourished stock; nor would The Advertiser be surprised to see the Black Legion gain a foothold in the Deep South, although Middle Western officials have been so energetic in their attack that it may be possible to stamp out this buzzard roost before it spreads Southward.

But it is nonsense for the North American Newspaper Alliance and the estimable Chattanooga Times to place the emphasis where they do. If a few hookwormy, mouth-breathing Southerners have been roped in by the police of the great Middle West, it hardly follows that "the South" is responsible for what has occurred. The truth is that this terrorist ring is plainly centered in the Middle West. It is essentially a Middle Western problem. It is only incidentally a Southern problem, and very incidentally at that.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.
6-3-36

There may be a few former sharecroppers from the gulleys of Tennessee, Alabama, and Kentucky holding places of power in the Black Legion, but if so the reflection upon others concerned is all the more impressive. If that kind of cattle can achieve dominion over the minds and hearts of vast numbers of Middle Westerners, what sort of people are the Middle Westerners? We are just asking. We wouldn't know without advice from superior people.

What puzzles The Advertiser is that a few hookworm expatriates from the South should wield a greater influence in the Middle West than all of our classical political philosophers of yesteryear. If John C. Calhoun came too early to conquer the Middle West, what of Jefferson Davis, William L. Yancey, John C. Breckenridge, Bob Toombs, Howell Cobb, Judah P. Benjamin and Alexander H. Stephens in the pre-war days?

Why didn't the post-war Southern statesmen such as Hill, Lamar, Morgan, Hampton, Vance and the oratorical conciliator, Henry Grady, have greater influence on public opinion in the Middle West?

How does it come about that only Southern hookworm carriers can influence public opinion among independent, robust Middle Westerners? Again we just wanted to know.

The Black Legion may have had its inspiration in Southern hearts, but it gets its money and its members from the ranks of Middle Western oafs. The Legion may yet stink in the South, but at the moment it is doing its stinking in the fabulous Middle West.

BLACK LEGION HELD WIDE LAW-BREAKER

5-30-36
New York Times

McCrea Compiles for Cummings Evidence of Four Types of Federal Crime.

FITZGERALD SPURS INQUIRY

Michigan Criminal Syndicalism Act, Used Against Communists, May Be Invoked.

By WILL LISSNER

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DETROIT, Mich., May 29.—The Federal law violations indicated in the complaints and evidence resulting from his investigation of the Black Legion were disclosed today by Duncan C. McCrea, Wayne County prosecutor.

The laws involved fall under four classifications, taking kidnapped persons from one State to another, moving automobiles across State lines against the owners' will, caryiny from State to State explosives and materials for the commission of arson and plotting to use armed force against the government.

White material indicating a conspiracy to commit treason has been gathered for many persons, Mr. McCrea said that the statements and documents on this point are uncorroborated and he would await further evidence to support them.

On what he regards as positive date, Mr. McCrea hopes for action by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice. Reports from Washington stated that the Bureau of Internal Revenue is giving serious consideration to the request that the organization's accounts be studied for income tax violations and it is expected here that the Postoffice Department will offer full cooperation in seeking to fix responsibility for the circulation of propaganda material with obscene references.

Doubt Money Order Violations

No evidence has turned up that the order's admonition to its members not to use postal money orders, apparently promulgated because it feared invokation of the postal laws, had been disregarded in any instance.

Although Attorney General Cummings has told Mr. McCrea that more information is needed to establish Federal jurisdiction, it was noted here that he departed from usual practice and asked that available evidence be sent direct to Washington. It is customary when questions of jurisdiction arise for these to be resolved by the United States Attorney at the scene.

"I am preparing all the material and will be glad to turn it over to the Department of Justice as fast as I can," Mr. McCrea said.

The material consists of affidavits and statements gathered from prisoners and from several hundred witnesses, as well as evidence seized in raids.

While Mr. McCrea compiled this data, which included, he said, complaints from fifteen to eighteen States, State officials martialled their forces to stamp out the organization in Michigan.

Governor Frank Fitzgerald ordered the State Attorney General, David H. Crowley, to continue his efforts to wipe out the ritualistic cult.

"Judging from facts already uncovered," the Governor said in a letter, "you, as representatives of the State, are engaged in a defense of our free government against a group which would set itself up as a super-government by imposing upon law-abiding citizens a reign of terrorism which stops not even at murder."

Spurs "Aggressive Effort"

He urged that the Attorney General's office and the State police continue the "aggressive effort" to "punish those who have been guilty of crime in connection with the so-called Black Legion terrorism," declaring:

"This assault upon the rights of free citizens is the more abominable because it seeks to wrap itself in the American flag and to hide its crimes behind the Constitution of the United States. It tramples upon the principles of equality and of religious freedom which are the fundamentals of American Government.

"Facing such aggression, I want you to know that every ounce of power and authority vested in the State is at your disposal."

The Governor pledged himself to remove any officials and employes "who have willingly participated in the councils of this organization no matter what their rank." It has been charged in Washington that high State officials are involved.

The Governor also announced that he had sent a personal representative to Detroit to represent him so that he might be at the command of his investigators "at any hour of the day or night."

Mr. Crowley revealed that he had accepted an invitation from Mr. McCrea to intervene in the prosecution of the thirteen men held in the murder of Charles Poole, Detroit youth. These thirteen prisoners will be examined Tuesday.

"Grand Juror" to Give Ruling

Whether the Wayne County prosecutor will be asked to take part in the grand jury investigation of terrorism in the metropolitan area of Detroit will be decided by Judge James E. Chenot, sitting as grand juror, Mr. Crowley said.

Mr. Crowley wrote to Mr. McCrea, asking him to turn over all information in his possession to Chester P. O'Hara, Assistant Attorney General. Mr. Crowley and Mr. McCrea belong to opposing political organizations. The county prosecutor has said he would be glad to cooperate in the State-sponsored investigation if it appears determined to get at the facts, but would have nothing to do with it if it is run along political lines.

Michigan's broad Criminal Syndicalism Act, on which the late Charles E. Ruthenberg, Communist leader, was convicted for taking part in a Communist political convention in St. Joseph, Mich., when nothing more serious than lip service to armed insurrection was proved, is being studied by the Attorney General as a possible weapon against the Black Legion. He is preparing a formal opinion at the request of Prosecutor Owen Dudley of Jackson.

The act has served as a model for other States. However, it was pointed out that the facts on which Ruthenberg was convicted are not similar to those in the Black Legion case. Ruthenberg was accused of planning an uprising against the government. The accusation against Black Legion members is that they used terror and violence to gain political power within the framework of the present government.

Kept Foster Out of State

Despite its sweeping nature, the act was held constitutional. A warrant issued under it prevented William Z. Foster, a recent Communist candidate for President, from campaigning in this State. Foster attended the St. Joseph convention.

Mr. Dudley announced in Jackson that, if the act was applicable, he would arrest every person known to have taken part in the Black Legion's activities. He released a new list of thirteen ranking officers and members against whom evidence has been uncovered. Pending decision on the act, no new arrests have been made.

Members of the black-robed order in the Jackson area, one of its strong centers in the Midwest, have held several secret meetings in the last few days, at which the strategy by which the organization could defend itself from prosecution was discussed, Mr. Dudley disclosed. Members have made desperate efforts to obtain the release of Ray Ernest, Michigan State prison guard dismissed from his position as a "brigade commander of the night riders. These members have offered deeds to their property as bail. On technicalities, such as that the property is not held free and clear, these bail offers have been rejected.

In the order's oath, members were required to pledge that they would place their property at the disposal of the organization if needed.

In Pontiac, Oakland County, a citizens committee sent a delegation to Mr. Crowley, asking that a grand jury be convened there. Prosecutor David C. Pence, who admitted former membership in a Black Legion affiliate, made a similar request independently. Another grand jury is being sought in Flint, where charges of terrorism and violence also have been made.

A vigilante group was nipped in the bud when Harold Dugas, a Ford worker, was taken into custody here for investigation. He was organizing a military outfit aimed, he said, "to break up Communist meetings and marches." He said that he did not intend to use the shotgun found in his home, offering the explanation that he was an amateur pugilist.

Inquiry showed that he had only seven persons sworn as "regular combatants."

Reported Burning Robes

By The Associated Press.

DETROIT, May 29.—The Black Legion was reported on the run today before the campaign of extermination set in motion a week ago. Definite information that frightened members were burning the hoods and robes was reported by Prosecutor Owen Dudley of Jackson County, where five men are held on charges of beating a fellow-member.

"Twenty-two robes hidden in one house alone have been burned," Mr. Dudley said. "The back of the organization here has been broken. I don't believe that any of the Jackson County members have enough nerve left to commit further violence."

As Mr. Dudley was making his announcement, Arthur F. Lupp, admitted Michigan recruiting officer for the whip-wielding band, declared, "I've had enough. I'm through with the Black Legion."

A warning, which Detective Richard Bowen of the Detroit police laboratories said was printed in human blood, was received from New York by police here, warning them in letters half an inch high to "lay off the Black Legion." The warning was signed "The White Legion." New York authorities were asked to investigate.

Commenting on Prosecutor McCrea's charge that V. F. Effinger of Lima, Ohio, had a monopoly on the sale of regalia to Black Legion members, Wilber Robinson, Detroit Street Railways employe suspended for alleged membership, said:

"There wasn't any racket in selling the robes."

He termed the garments "a fine value" at $7.50.

Charges Pontiac Threats

In Pontiac members of a hastily organized citizens committee said that they had received evidence that Black Legion members held high offices in the local government.

Charles P. Webster of the investigating committee said that witnesses are being threatened with death if they talk to us."

He added:

"I have direct evidence connecting the Black Legion in Pontiac with at least one house-breaking and evidence indicative of a dozen other serious crimes, from murder down. We need some one with authority to take the statements of witnesses before they are killed or further intimidated."

The Detroit Free Press said it had information connecting Pontiac Black Legionnaires, including a police officer, with a lynching in Lima, Ohio, about a year ago, but added that Lima police said they had been unable to find any record of such a death there.

The Free Press also said a notice of 'final warning" was posted recently on the door of a Citizens Committee investigator.

Prosecutor McCrea exhibited scores of letters from nearly all parts of the United States giving information about alleged Black Legion activities or expressing fear of terrorism.

Denver Terrorism Charged

A Denver man appealed for an investigation there, saying: "Scores of respectable people here are being persecuted and dare not open their mouths. This has been going on for the last three years."

From Great Falls, Mont., came a letter saying:

"I can give you a tip on their headquarters. I am one of the victims, burned out twice and put out of business three times." He asked that an association in Washington be investigated.

A letter from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, said there was a branch of the Black Legion there.

From Dodge City, Kan., came a letter from a woman who enclosed clippings concerning the death of her son in Tarpon Springs, Fla., and asking an investigation.

A letter from Lima, Ohio, complained that there was "no cooperation" in an investigation there a year ago.

A Cleveland correspondent named a "high officer in the Legion" and added that th eorganization used "a lot of names to fool the public." The man, who signed himself "A member who had to join by a gun," said there are many Black Legion groups in Indiana and Ohio.

From Dallas, Texas, came a letter signed "A Member" and asserting that "the legion had Huey Long killed."

"In some Southern cities," the writer said, "where Negroes are lynched, the general says the Black Legion takes in 300 new members after one lynching."

Indiana Death Hard to Band

Special to The New York Times.

MISHAWAKA, Ind., May 29.—Following quickly on the denials of Black Legion terriorism in Mishawaka by Chief of Police James L. Guy and Deputy Prosecutor Paul S. Bryant, this mysterious death of George A. Lang, prominent Catholic resident, was attributed to the robed cult.

Deputy Coroner B. J. Wyland today concluded that Mr. Lang had been murdered by "persons or persons unknown." The inquest, he said, showed that Lang had been clubbed to death. It was at first believed that Lang fell down the back steps of his brother's home Sunday morning.

Dr. Wyland delcared this morning that he believed similar murders would be committed in the weeks to come.

Denver Ready to Act

DENVER, May 29 (AP).—Denver officials said today if a man who wrote Prosecutor McCrea of Detroit asked for an investigation of the "Black Legion" in Colorado would place his information before them they would "act promptly."

MICHIGAN'S MURDER GANG

In investigating the slaying of a young PWA worker, Detroit Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea discovered the existence of an organization called the Black Legion, whose estimated Michigan membership of 135,000 is apparently banded together for the purpose of "executing" individuals who for some reason or other are inimical to the members of this bloodthirsty gang.

The canny "executioners" are said to conduct their murderous attacks upon unsuspecting persons in such a manner that deaths appear to have been the result of suicides, and officials are now engaged in investigating some 50 mysterious deaths, evidence pointing to suspected members of the Black Legion, whose officials are reported to have marked another half hundred persons for removal.

As investigators advance into this appalling situation it is revealed that the organization has already spread to several other northern states, all acting under a "commander-in-chief," with "brigadier generals," "colonels," "captains" and other subordinate officers in charge of local organizations, where members are inducted by a strange ritualistic performance and the neophites pledged to obey the instructions of superiors.

Warrants charging murder have been issued against seven men accused in the "execution" of the PWA worker, whose removal brought about the investigation, and as there is said to be considerable "literature" extant regarding the Black Legion, trial of these persons may bring to light the perverted and unlawful reasons that brought it into existence, and possibly reveal terrorist activities which have been responsible for its growth.

Bitter condemnation of lynching cases in the south has long been general throughout the north, with a large bloc of congressmen fighting for passage of an anti-lynching measure directly aimed at southern states.

Law-abiding citizens of the south reluctantly admit that lynching of rapists and murderers does occur in this section, but statistics disclose that lynchings also occur in northern states and the cause is generally the same—an unusually atrocious crime that fires indignation to the point where a mob takes the law into its own hands.

But the south has no organized murder gang, such as has been disclosed in the Michigan investigations, whose sole object appears to be the "execution" of an individual who in some unknown manner has offended an officer or member of the Black Legion.

Michigan officials are to be highly commended for unearthing the existence of this appalling organization, and it is to be hoped that its trail can be successfully followed into every section where it is operating. Those guilty of crime and conspiracy should be promptly punished and the law-breaking body should be effectually squelched.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Michigan.

5333

CRIME

Black Legion

Time
6-1-36
New York, N.Y.

In Detroit one evening last fortnight some 50 members of the Black Legion, wearing cheap black & white robes and hoods, held a solemn conclave. Present were two relatives of the wife of a 32-year-old WPA worker named Charles Poole. They reported that Charles Poole was a wife-beater. "Let's beat him up!" "Let's stripe him!" cried the Black Legionaries. Some, more bloodthirsty, screamed: "Let's hang him!"

The Legion's "Colonel" Harvey Davis decided on hanging. Poole was lured to the meeting on the pretext that he was needed for a sandlot baseball team. The men piled into a string of automobiles with their victim, started out of town. At a spot near Dearborn, after a round of drinks, one Denton Dean discovered that there was no rope handy, abruptly shot five slugs into Charles Poole.

Such was the lurid story disclosed by Detroit police to the Press last week. Their arrest of 16 Black Legionaries as suspects in the murder of Charles Poole, whose widow denied that he ever beat her, unearthed a sinister and hitherto little known U. S. nightshirt organization. Of late years Southern hillbillies, steeped in Ku Klux Klan tradition, have emigrated to Detroit in search of unskilled factory employment. To uphold "Protestantism, Americanism and Womanhood" and, as a sideline, to establish a mutual assistance group to find members jobs, a number of them founded the Black Legion in 1933. The organization burgeoned. No man could apply for membership, but if sponsored by friends, was enticed to a meeting. There, with a revolver at his heart, he was permitted to declare his willingness to "be torn limb from limb and scattered to the carrion" if he betrayed a word of society secrets. After swearing to support God and the Constitution, to give his all in any "war" against Catholics, Jews, Negroes, aliens and Communists, he paid $7 for a robe, 10¢ monthly dues, bought himself a gun, became a member in good standing.

Time
6-1-36
New York, N.Y.

State police variously estimated the Legion's membership in Michigan at from 3,000 to 135,000. Last week in a Detroit court, the 16 sullen, empty-faced prisoners insisted they belonged to the Wolverine Republican Club. "A political organization?" inquired the court. Sixteen heads bobbed affirmatively. Unconvinced, the court arraigned twelve "Wolverine Republican clubmates" for the murder of WPA Worker Charles Poole.

John Bielak Murder Traced To Black Legion Terror Band

Daily Worker
6-2-36

Marchuk Threatened by White Before Being Slain

DETROIT, Mich., June 1.—Captain Ira H. Marmon, of the Michigan State Police, said today that the death in 1934 of John Bielak, Hudson Motor Car employe and active unionist, could be traced directly to the Black Legion.

From a private investigator who joined the Legion, Marmon learned that some time before Bielak's body was found in a ditch north of Monroe, Mich., his discharge had been sought by three legionnaires.

The three, presenting themselves as a labor commitee, demanded the discharge of five Hudson Motor Company employes on charges of "Communism." One of these, Marmon said his informant told him, was Bielak.

New York,

Won't Reveal Name

This informant is going before the Grand Jury to tell his story, "and I can't reveal his name now," the state police official said. "It would be suicide to name him now, and I confidently expect he will give us more valuable information in this case."

N.Y.

The informant was said to be "prominent in the American Legion." He told Marmon that after his initiation he attended several meetings. He was asked to become a "Brigadier-General" of the night riding order, but refused.

It was learned today that the leader of the Black Legion delegation demanding Bielak's discharge from the plant was Isaac White, the same "peg-legged" retired policeman who was known to have threatened George Marchuk, aa active member of the Communist Party shortly before the latter was found murdered.

With the direct tie-up of the anti-union automobile companies and the Black Legion becoming alarmingly evident, Inspector John Navarre, "investigating" the black-robed band, attempted to shield the auto magnates by presenting a scurrilous theory that "Bielak was a Communist and was murdered by the Communists because he quit the party."

Navarre's slimy attack was instantly answered by William Weinstone, Michigan State Secretary of the Communist Party, exposing Navarre's "whitewash" maneuver and stating that the murdered worker was not a member of the Communist Party, and that at no time was there any investigation conducted concerning the dead man's political affiliations.

Judges Subpoenaed

The Wayne County one-man Grand Jury met today to trace the sinister influence of the terroristic Black Legion into the governmental structure ruling Detroit.

Attorney General David H. Crowley announced that two judges and a prominent politician would be subpoenaed to tell what they knew of the hooded band of night riders known to have executed one man and suspected of scores of crimes, ranging, as one official said, "from murder down."

A citizens' committee organized to stamp out the Legion, prepared evidence intended to prove that the hooded band controlled government there. It called a mass meeting for Wednesday night, hoping to work up public indignation to the point where the Legion's influence would be dissipated altogether.

Thousands of Handbills Distributed in Detroit Demand Action

Daily Worker
6-2-36

By George Morris

(Daily Worker Michigan Bureau)

DETROIT, Mich., June 1.—The world's largest automobile industry and surrounding territory was flooded with thousands of printed handbills today, issued by the Farmer-Labor Party of Wayne County, headed with the slogan "Stamp Out the Black Legion."

New York,

In a flaming indictment the Farmer-Labor Party handbill lists numerous cases of murder, floggings and bombings, committed by the robed hoodlums.

N.Y.

"The Black Legion" the statement declares, "whose members are pledged to deal death and destruction to Catholics, Jews, Negroes and to militant workers irrespective of religious affiliation, has been accidentally uncovered with the murder of a WPA worker, Charles A. Poole.

Responsible for Bombings

"Draping itself in the American flag, chanting its 'patriotism,' this infamous gang of night riders has perpetrated a long seriess of violent outrages against innocent people and against working men and labor organizations, which it has been organized to destroy.

"There is little question now that the long epidemic of bombings which destroyed strikers' homes and labor halls and endangered lives has been the work of the Black Legion in carrying out its anti-labor program.

"A long list, giving names, dates and places of murders, floggings and bombings, was presented to the Common Council of the City of Detroit by the Conference for the Protection of Civil Rights and the labor unions of Detroit in their demand for an investigation of Police Commissioner Pickert and the Detroit Police Department. The council refused even to investigate! And Mayor Couzens unreservedly upheld Commissioner Pickert!

"And not labor alone has been the target of this band of assassins. It has spread literature inciting racial and religious hatred in a style worthy of Hitlerites.

Unite to Fight Legion

"The Black Legion clearly shows the menace of fascist organization. It has spread its network of terror over the major industrial centers of Michigan. And it is now clear that it has national ramifications. But the flourishing seat of the organization in Detroit shows that in common with all such organizations it thrives best in an atmosphere of employer, official and police repression.

"The existence of the Black Legion presents a grave and alarming situation—a warning that all forces of the labor movement and all progressive forces, irrespective of religious affiliation or race, must weld themselves together in a solid front for the protection of civil rights and against every manifestation of fascism.

Ask People's Committee

"The Republican Party is already exposed as having organic connections with the Black Legion. Democratic politicians have been willing to accept support of the Black Legion and other anti-labor organizations. **The Common Council of Detroit was asked to investigate the inactivity of Police Commissioner Pickert and the Police Department in the series of bombings and shootings, but unanimously refused.**

"In this situation we submit that the people of Detroit should demand that the Mayor appoint a genuine representative People's Committee for a real investigation. This demand must be backed up and supported by the entire Labor movement. Congress also must act against the Black Legion and all fascist groups.

Abolish Spy Agencies

"In addition to this demand, we call for the immediate cessation of all fascist activities and the complete restoration of civil rights and liberties in Detroit and Michigan.

"We demand a complete investigation of the auto spy and stool-pigeon agencies, and their abolition by law.

"We demand an investigation of the so-called Constitution Protective League, founded by the reactionary Wilbur M. Brucker; and of the Knights of Dearborn, operating in Ford's own city, and a cessation of their anti-labor activities.

"We demand that a stop be put to the vivolent anti-labor, red-baiting of the higher officials of the American Legion.

Farmer-Labor Party Needed

"Only a People's Committee, with complete representation of the labor and progressive elements and the racial minorities of this city, can conduct a genuine, fair and fearless investigation, stopping at no obstacles placed by the political machines of the old parties.

"If civil rights are to be guaranteed, if all sections of the labor movement and racial minorities are not to be crushed by fascist bands in Hitler fashion, then political power cannot be left in the hands of politicians who prove to be blood-brothers of the foulest gang of cut-throat terrorists, but must be in the hands of the people, organized independently in a Farmer-Labor Party embracing the workers, farmers and middle class of this city and state. Such a festering sore could not develop with the Farmer-Labor Party in office. A strong Farmer-Labor Party is the need of the hour in Wayne County and in the state of Michigan."

Black Legion Storm Troops For Fascist State Hearst, Liberty League Would Set Up

Daily Worker 6-1-36

New York, N.Y.

By Inigo Ingram

Hearst.

In that one name is concentrated all the venom that the long record of his infamy has generated.

That record, running the gamut of all that is vile, from open advocation of assassination to the fostering of American gangsterism, from open incitement of terror against organized labor to unbridled red-baiting—that record has furnished the political climate in which the Black Legion could rise and flourish.

Written in human blood, the long dark record includes the assassination by an anarchist fanatic of William McKinley, then President of the United States, after the pages of Hearst papers all over the nation had called for the President's death.

Mr. Brisbane's Role

Arthur Brisbane, editorial panderer in the Hearst menage of prostituted talent, commenting on McKinley's election to a second term, had said in the New York American:

"If bad men cannot be got rid of except by killing, then the killing must be done."

Ambrose Bierce had written for Hearst's New York Journal after the murder of Governor Goebel of Kentucky:

"The bullet that pierced Goebel's breast
Can not be found in all the West;
Good reason, it is speeding here
To stretch McKinley on his bier."

As the cancer that is Hearst spread through the nation, violence and murder followed. With the appearance of the Chicago American on the streets of that city, newsboys and dealers were beaten by thugs until they gave proper display to this latest bid of the creature, Hearst, for control of America's thinking.

Chicago Sluggers

Hearst's slugging circulation builders were two young men from Chicago's West Side who are today exemplars of success under capitalism: Moses ("Moe") and Max Annenberg. Working behind the scenes with the full connivance of Hearst, they built the circulation of the American as they built their own careers — on intimidation and assault by hired thugs, on murder.

But terror and assault can be and are used by one capitalist when his domain is threatened by another. The Chicago Tribune hired these two young career men away from Hearst, to build the circulation of the Tribune on the bodies of maimed and murdered boys.

But by the autumn of 1910 Hearst's American was fully prepared with a new staff of gunmen and thugs to meet the threat of the Tribune. **And with the launching of this new feud began the reign of terror by gangsters that has marked Chicago's history ever since.**

Gangsters Branch Out

Backed by the Hearst millions, protected by the Hearst power which made them invulnerable to the process of law, these gangsters thrived and branched out. Brothels paid them tribute; they intimidated union workers and officials, terrorizing them at the dictates of their overlords.

Dion O'Banion, riddled with machine gun slugs in the florist shop he used for a 'front,' was among the early recruits to this Hearst circulation machine. Others, less notorious, but of equal brutality and callousness, were among those early Hearst mercenaries.

Hearst wealth is based on terror, on brutal suppression of the workers who pile up his fortune. At the basis of his newspaper domain lie the copper mines of Cerro de Pasco in far-off Peru, and the largest deposit of low grade gold ore in the world in the Homestake Mine, at Lead, S. D.

Cerro de Pasco

At Cerro de Pasco, 14,000 feet above sea level, where no shrub or tree will grow, the Peruvian Indian knows the full terror of the unrelenting Hearst campaign against the workers. Recruited from farms in the region, workers in the Cerro de Pasco mines are virtually indentured slaves. Living within a stockade whose only entrance is protected by armed guards, they must pay tribute to Hearst for the basic necessities of their lives: water and salt. Even brutal suppression and harsh extortion have not made Cerro de Pasco highly profitable, however; only a war in the Pacific can do that.

And so Hearst asks for a war against Japan.

At Homestake it is a different story. This mine is the very foundation of the Hearst fortune. And within the town of Lead, where the miners live, terror rules and no man dares trust his fellow-worker. The churches belong to Hearst; the stores, the newspaper, the bank, they are all his. Mine detectives and guards are the deputy sheriffs of the township. Water and electric light are controlled by Hearst.

2,000 Locked Out

Once union organization was attempted there, Hearst locked out 2,000 union members and began to import strikebreakers under the care of 100 heavily-armed guards. The union men tore up their cards and returned to work.

Even the churches at Homestake belong to Hearst. Under the principle of 'divide and rule' Hearst maintains all religious sects on property rented from him; and the miners are split among 26 different nationalities to forestall solidarity.

Terror has driven the spirit of freedom deep into hiding at Homestake, but rebellion smoulders there still, despite armed guards, company spies and the constant threat to organization.

Visits Hitler

Visiting Hitler Germany in 1934 Hearst found the type of government he had always sought, a replica of Homestake and Cerro de Pasco on a national scale. He spent the summer absorbing the fascist ideology of the Nazis, whose tactics he had mastered long before.

Thus fortified, he went to London from where he directed the breaking of the San Francisco general strike in 1934, through his attorney in San Francisco. With Hearst's San Francisco Examiner and Call-Bulletin leading the pack, the strike became a "revolution" and a "Communist plot" in the daily papers of the region.

General Hugh S. Johnson, NRA head and cracker-down-in-chief, appearing as the personal representative of President Roosevelt, quickly fell in line with the Hearst propaganda and helped instigate the vigilante mobs who attacked labor headquarters. The National Guard obeying the behest of Hearst's servants in the state government, was brought in to break the strike, 'justified' by Hearst's campaign of lies and vilification.

The record is longer, darker, and bloodier than can be written here in full detail. It is so replete with treachery, betrayal and continued attacks on the working class, that it could fill volumes, as it already has in the documented history of this creature's life written by Ferdinand Lundberg, "Imperial Hearst."

For Hearst has been a stench in the nostrils of this nation and the world since his career began. **He helped make the Spanish-American War. He has openly advocated the use of violence against the people. He has attacked the teachers and students of the nation time and again because they advocated progressive ideas. He backed the "grass roots" lynch convention of Governor Talmadge, held Jan. 29 in Macon, Ga. (The duPonts and other Liberty Leaguers contributed thousands of dollars to this anti-Negro rally.)**

Lies About Communism

Hearst lies about Communism. And he has purchased bales of lies from those whose testimony about the Soviet Union was discredited before they ever opened their mouths.

From the beginning of his career he has sought to apply to the American nation as a whole the terror that rules his mining camps, to crush labor as it has been crushed in Lead, S. D., and at Cerro de Pasco. Through his newspapers and his Big Business alliances he seeks to establish that very atmosphere in which hooded death by night, intimidation of Catholic, Jew, Negro and the foreign-born may prosper, to the end that national fascism, brutal repression of the forces of labor, may be born.

A Hearst Child

When the hood is ripped from the face of the Black Legion, it will stand exposed as a seven-month child of Hearst's siring.

Hearst, the Morgan-duPont barons who control General Motors, the Liberty League, and the industrial feudalist and proven anti-Semite, Henry Ford, arch-reactionaries of America, there are the creatures who use the wealth created by America's workers to buy the forces of repression.

The Black Legion are the storm troops for the fascist state they hope to establish.

Behind the Black Legion

Daily Worker

"THE anti-labor program of the Black Legion coincides with the program of union-busting of the auto manufacturers. The execution of the auto manufacturers' program is entrusted to the governmental bodies of the city and state. The Black Legion has found protection from these governmental bodies. Only the childish can believe that such an organization could exist for any length of time without at least the tacit support and endorsement of police, prosecutors and politicians." 6-1-36

In these words the Wayne County (Detroit) Farmer-Labor Party puts the finger on the forces that created this fascist terror band. New York,

They are the same forces that are the chief threat to the liberties of the people throughout the country—the forces of Republican-Liberty League reaction, working with the poisonous Hearst press. N.Y.

It is no accident that the Black Legion sank its deepest roots in the stronghold of General Motors, controlled by the same Morgan-duPont interests who organized the American Liberty League.

And it is no accident that Black Legionism flourished especially in the industrial suburbs of Detroit dominated by that other representative of arch-reactionary open-shopdom, Henry Ford.

Ford's terroristic spy system and anti-Semitism are well-known. Not so well-known is the fact that Ford contributed thousands of dollars to the Hitler movement before it came to power and now employs at his plant the national leader of the Friends of New Germany, Fritz Kuhn.

General Motors-Ford-Chrysler-Hearst—this is the four-headed monster that spawned the Black Legion.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Michigan

5334

FIVE ARRAIGNED IN BLACK LEGION THRILL MURDER

DETROIT, July-- (CNA)- How a Negro World War veteran was murdered in cold blood to provide entertainment for six Black Legion leaders was told here by Dayton Dean, confessed triggerman for the secret, hooded order, one of several outfits seeking to set up a fascist dictatorship in this country. It was the second killing blamed on the vigilante organization by Dean.

Crusader News Agency

The murdered war veteran was Silas Coleman, 42, who was shot on the night of May 25, 1935, according to Dean. Five Legionnaires named by Dean as participants with himself in the thrill murder were arrainged on murder and kidnaping charges. Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea said he had obtained a corroborating statement on Dean's story from one of the five.

7-27-36

29 west 120th St.—
New York, N.Y.

Dean told police that Coleman was shot because "Colonel Harvey Davis, now held on a murder charge in connection with the slaying of Charles Poole, 32-year old white WPA worker, wanted "to see how it felt to shoot a Negro."

Three of the five named by Dean were already in custody charged with the murder of Poole. They are Davis, Ervin Lee, and John Bannerman. Two others are sought: James Roy Lorrance and Charles Rouse.

Dean told McCrea that a party of Black Legion leaders and their wives were spending a week-end at Rush Lake when they decided to kill a Negro. Dean said, "It didn't matter who the Negro was, just so he was colored."

Coleman was then lured to a lonely spot near Pickney, Mich., on the pretext that he was going to collect some back wages from a contractor, and shot to furnish "excitement for the Black Legionnaires.

Dean said the wives of the Legion leaders were not present at the lynching in the lonely swamp land, but waited for their husbands to return after taking Coleman to his death.

The six men, driving in two cars, picked up Coleman and took him to meet the contractor, who they said was out fishing.

Coleman became suspicious, Dean said, when the cars stopped at a lonely bridge near Pinckney and he did not see the contractor.

The Legionnaires huddled in a group by one car, while Coleman remained in the other. Finally, coording to Dean, Davis said:

"Let's go get him."

Dean's statement continued:

"The colored fellow came around the rear of the car, wondering to see what was doing around there, and just as he came around and faced us, Davis took his .38 and he shot first. Then the others shot."

A bullet must have struck Coleman in the lung, because he made an inarticulate sound and began running, Dean said.

Dean said they chased Coleman into the marsh, firing at him as he ran. Finally they left, and Dean said he read in the papers Monday about how Coleman was found dead, propped against a pole in the swamp.

The shooting occurred on a Saturday.

WANTON KILLING BY GANG IS TOLD

Black Legion's Executioner Clears Up Mystery of Negro's Death In Swamp

DETROIT, July 21 (AP)—Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea said tonight he had obtained corroboration of an accusation by Dayton Dean, Black Legion "executioner," that an unsuspecting Negro was lured to a lonely swamp and shot to death for the entertainment of a group of terrorists on a Saturday night drinking party.

The prosecutor said that James Roy Lorance, named by Dean as one of the witnesses to the "thrill" slaying, had admitted he was present when Silas Coleman, 42-year-old Negro World War veteran, was killed in a swamp near Pinckney, Mich., late in May, 1935.

Others accused by Dean are Harvey Davis, reputed Black Legion "colonel," Ervin D. Lee and John Bannerman, all awaiting trial for the Black Legion slaying of Charles A. Poole last May 12, and Charles Rouse, charged with being an accessory after the fact in the Poole case.

Warrants charging the five men with kidnaping and murder were issued late today. The prosecutor said they would be arraigned tomorrow.

The formal charges brought to 57 the number held in three Michigan counties in connection with Black Legion crimes ranging from assault to murder.

The slaying disclosed today was the second in which members of the hooded band have been explicitly accused. The other, the roadside execution of Charles A. Poole the night of May 12, set in motion the investigation which brought existence of the night riding band to light.

Dean said the victim was Silas Coleman, 42-year-old World War veteran. Coleman's bullet-pierced body was found in May in a swamp near Pinckney, Mich. The crime is listed as unsolved.

Coleman was slain, Dean said, because a Black Legion officer said, "I want to see what it feels like to shoot a Negro."

Negro Killed For 'Entertainment' Of Black Legionnaires, Dean Says

DETROIT, July 21.—(AP)—An account by Dayton Dean, Black Legion "executioner," of a slaying in which an unsuspecting negro was lured to a lonely swamp and shot to death for the entertainment of a group of terrorists on a Saturday night drinking party was disclosed today by Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea.

McCrea asked murder and kidnaping warrants for five men bringing to 57 the number held in three Michigan counties in Black Legion crimes ranging from assault to murder.

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The men Dean accused are Harvey Davis, Ervin D. Lee, and Jack Bannerman, all awaiting trial in the Poole slaying: Charles Rouse, charged with being an accessory after the fact in the Poole case; and James Roy Lorange, who previously had been released after questioning in the Poole slaying.

Coleman was slain, Dean said, because a Black Legion officer said "I want to see what it feels like to shoot a negro."

Dean, who has pleaded guilty to a murder charge in the Poole killing, said he was instructed to bring a negro — "it didn't matter where he came from as long as he was black"—to a cottage in Livingston County where four men and their wives were spending the weekend.

Coleman was induced to accompany him to the spot on the pretext that a contractor who owed him some wages was there, Dean said. He said the negro was taken "down a dark road to a bridge where there was water on both sides and a marsh."

"The colored fellow came around to the rear of the car, wondering, to see what we were doing there, and just as he come around and faced us, they started shooting," Dean said.

"He made a quick jump in the marsh, and they fired after him."

Trial of the 15 men charged with slaying Poole was to have begun today, but it was adjourned for two weeks, pending argument of a defense motion for a commission to inquire into Dean's sanity.

FIVE BOUND OVER IN LEGION KILLING

Men Charged With Terrorist

Thrill Murder Held Without Bail

DETROIT, July 22. — (AP) — Five men charged with the Black Legion "thrill killing" of a negro hod carrier during a drinking party at a lake resort were ordered held today without bail for examination next Tuesday on murder and kidnap charges.

The five refused to plead at their arraignment before Recorder's Judge Edward J. Jefferies, contending the case should be in the jurisdiction of Livingston County and not Wayne County (Detroit). The court entered pleas of innocent for them.

The bullet-pierced body of the negro, Silas Coleman, 42, was found in a swamp in Livingston County late in May, 1935. But Wayne County prosecutor said the men would be tried here as the slaying was the culmination of a crime begun in Detroit.

Those arraigned were Harvey Davis, Black Legion "colonel," Ervin D. Lee, Jack Bannerman, Charles Rouse, and James Roy Lorance. The first three are waiting trial on charges of kidnaping and slaying Charles A. Poole May 12 in the roadside "execution" which disclosed the existence of the black-cloaked terrorist organization.

The new charges were placed against the five after Dayton Dean, confessed "triggerman" in the Poole killing, told McCrea Coleman was lured to the swamp and shot to death "just for the hell of it."

Dean was not in court today but Lorance, who corroborated Dean's story in a statement to McCrea, was the recipient of baleful glances from the other defendants. Lorance admitted seeing Coleman slain but denied he had fired his own revolver.

The other four denied any knowledge of Coleman's death. Davis and Lee declared "the guy's crazy, and he gets crazier everytime he opens his mouth," when told of Dean's statement.

Dean has pleaded guilty to Poole's murder, but trial of 14 others charged with murder and kidnaping in that case was postponed Tuesday for two weeks after the court set a date for hearing argument on a defense motion asking appointment of a commission to inquire into Dean's sanity.

2D DEATH CHARGED TO 'BLACK LEGION'

Executioner' Declares Negro Was Slain for Entertainment of 'Terrorists.'

DETROIT, July 21.—(AP)—An account by Dayton Dean, Black Legion "executioner," of a slaying in which an unsuspecting negro was lured to a lonely swamp and shot to death for the entertainment of a group of terrorists on a Saturday night drinking party was disclosed today by Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea.

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Veteran Was Victim.

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Taken Into Marsh.

Coleman was induced to accompany him to the spot on the pretext that a contractor who owed him some wages was there, Dean said. He said the negro was taken "down a dark road to a bridge where there was water on both sides and a marsh."

"The colored fellow came around to the rear of the car, wondering, to see what we were doing there, and just as he come around and faced up, they started shooting," Dean said.

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Black Legion Killer Admits Second Negro Thrill Slaying

Daily Worker

To Drain Pond for Bodies of 7 Terror Band Victims

7-27-35

(Daily Worker Michigan Bureau)

DETROIT, Mich., July 26.—Dayton Dean, Black Legion triggerman, admitted to Ecorse police yesterday that James Armour, Ecorse Negro who was shot down on Feb. 16, 1936, was another Black Legion victim. "Col." Harvey Davis and Charles Rouse, held for the "thrill murder" of Silas Coleman, were implicated.

Armour was shot in the back as he entered his home. He was in the hospital for several months.

The mill pond near Rush Lake where Dayton Dean said "seven more bodies will be found" will be drained, Prosecutor Duncan McCrea announced yesterday. Permission for draining was sought from the Ford Motor Company which owns the property.

It was in a marsh near the pond that the body of Silas Coleman, Negro hod carrier, now revealed as murdered by the Black Legion for a "thrill," was found on May, 1935.

Meanwhile the net of evidence which now includes corroboration of Dean's story from three sources, was strengthened today by a statement of Mrs. Lucius D. Dowle, wife of the caretaker of the Ford-owned mill pond. She told Assistant Prosecutor William Dowling that parties of men from the cottage at Rush Lake, where the Legion held its weekend drinking orgies, came every weekend and rented boats to go out on the pond, always at night.

Pontiac Tense

There was tense anxiety in the ranks of city and county officials in the General Motors center of Pontiac. The grand jury there had apparently taken seriously to arresting the floggers of the three Communists in 1931.

Among those to testify were Tom Bradley, former commander of the American Legion in Pontiac and past president of the Elks; also Roland Koehler, prominent in American Legion affairs.

called ere policemen of the General Motors service. Their chief Robert Alspaugh, was still in jail because he gave evasive answers to Judge Hatrick of the grand jury when questioned on the kidnaping

First Trial Thursday

The first Black Legion trial in Detroit will begin next Thursday when six men will come up for kidnaping and flogging Robert Penland, Ecorse steel worker.

Reverend J. H. Bollens, chairman of the Conference for Protection of Civil Rights in an interview again emphasized that the real leaders of the Black Legion were not yet disclosed by the investigators.

The conference will hold a special meeting Monday night at Electrical Workers Hall, 5 Adelade.

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5 Black Legion Thrill Killers Deny Murder of Negro

DETROIT, Mich., July 22 (UP).—Five Black Legion members, held on warrants charging kidnaping and the "thrill" murder of a Negro, were assigned pleas of not guilty today when they refused to speak at their arraignment.

The five men charged with the slaying of Silas Coleman, 42, were: "Colonel" Harvey Davis, John Bannerman and Ervin Lee, also held in the slaying of Charles Poole, 32, WPA worker; Charles Rouse and James Roy Lorrance.

They were charged with the crime after Dayton Dean, cult trigger-man, confessed Coleman was shot so that Davis could find out "how it felt to kill a Negro." Coleman was killed by the six men in a swamp near Pinckney, Mich., in May, 1935.

Judge Jeffries set Tuesday, July 28, as the examination date for the five men.

Investigation Aid Refused

The United States Department of Justice has formally refused to make any investigation of the interstate criminal activities of the Black Legion.

The refusal was made in a letter received yesterday by Anna Damon, acting national secretary of the International Labor Defense. Miss Damon on July 8 submitted to Attorney-General Homer Cummings a memorandum citing the facts revealed up to that date of the activities of the Black Legion, and the federal law which makes investigation by the department mandatory.

The letter received by Miss Damon, signed by Brien McMahon, Assistant Attorney-General, said:

"Please be advised that after a careful and thorough analysis of the facts and law set forth in the submitted memorandum the conclusion is reached that no sufficient factual or legal basis is shown thereby which would justify the Federal Government in assuming investigative jurisdiction of the Black Legion activities therein outlined."

Lynchings - 1936

Legal Punishment of lynchers,

Michigan.

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Reported Confessors in Black Legion Slaying

These four men were named by police as confessed participants in the "execution" of Charles A. Poole Detroit WPA worker, by the "Black Legion," secret vigilante society. Left to right: Dayton Dean, Harve Davis, Urban Lipps, and Irvin Lee. Three others of the 16 society members held will be charged with murde officers said. Poole was shot to death after he reportedly beat his wife. (Associated Press photo.)

SEVEN 'VIGILANTES' ACCUSED OF MURDER

Detroit Officials Say Four of the 'Black Legion' Admit 'Executing' Man as Wife Beater.

34 OTHERS ARE HUNTED

Group Masqueraded as Political Club—Hoods, Robes and Guns Seized in Raid.

Special to The New York Times.

DETROIT, May 22.—Seven members of the Black Legion, a secret society of robed night-riders, faced murder charges tonight for the execution of Charles A. Poole, 32-year-old WPA worker, who was found shot to death beside a suburban road on May 13.

Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea announced, after questioning sixteen men held for investigation, all of whom were said to be members of the vigilante society, that he would ask murder warrants for the seven tomorrow.

Police Inspector John I. Navarre declared that four of the men held had confessed participation in the "ritual slaying" of Poole after he was accused of beating and kicking his wife.

Mrs. Poole, to whom a daughter was born the day after her husband was abducted and slain by the black-hooded men, denied today that Poole ever had beaten or kicked her.

Inspector Navarre said the four who confessed are Harvey Davis, 38, a "colonel" in the society, and Dayton Dean, 36, who are employes of the Detroit Public Lighting Company, and Irvin Lee and Urban Lipps, factory workers.

Three other men alleged to have been with the four when Poole's body was riddled with bullets as he knelt in front of his slayers, are those the prosecutor said he would formally charge with murder. The other three are George C. Johnson, Paul R. Edwards and Edgar Baldwin.

Police Tell of Confessions

Inspector Navarre said that Dean confessed he fired two shots into Poole's body, that Lee also admitted firing at the victim and that Davis confessed he directed the shooting, while Lipps admitted he was a witness.

"I planned the expedition only as a whipping party," Davis was quoted by Prosecutor McCrea as saying.

"I shot him; I thought it was my job, according to our discussion," Dean was quoted as saying.

The other men held, in addition to the seven, are Thomas R. Craig, John Bannerman, John B. Mitchell, Bert Graham, Leonard Lipps, a brother of Urban Lipps; Luther Glascow, James R. Lorance, Hershell Gill and Lowell Rushing. Most of them are factory workers.

Gill and Rushing are relatives of Poole's wife and allegedly reported to the secret society that Poole, who was not a member of the organization, had beaten his wife.

Mitchell has petitions out urging his candidacy as a State Representative. Craig, according to Inspector Navarre, was a defendant in a legislative recount fraud trial here several months ago and was placed on probation upon his plea of guilty.

Dean said that he served in the navy during the World War on the Presidential yacht Mayflower.

Inspector Navarre said that thirty-four other members of the society were being sought as having attended a meeting of the "Wolverine Republican League" at which the abduction of Poole was planned.

Headquarters of the league, which has no connection with the Republican party, despite the name by which it has been publicly known, were raided by police today. A dozen firearms, a large quantity of ammunition, two daggers and several black robes and hoods, bearing a skull and crossbones insignia, were confiscated.

The inspector said that the men held for investigation told a detailed story of terroristic activity by the society which, they said, had members throughout the country. Some of the men expressed fear that their statements would lead to reprisals by other members of the Black Legion. They refused to name other cities in which the society is active.

The inspector said he learned that a meeting of some fifty members of the Black Legion was called by "Colonel" Davis on the night of May 12.

"Prior to the meeting," Inspector Navarre said, "Gill and Rushing, relatives of Mrs. Poole, told Davis that Poole had kicked and beaten his wife. Davis asked those at the meeting what they planned to do.

'Lipps said that some of the boys yelled: 'Let's beat him up,' and others shouted: 'Let's stripe him,' meaning to tar and feather him.

"Several men responded to a call for volunteers to bring Poole to the meeting. Lee and Dean brought him there by pretending they wanted to get him to play on a baseball team.

Formed to Fight Communism

"Then the meeting turned into a bedlam. The members were told to get in the cars and follow Davis's automobile, but many of the drivers lost their way.

"Only two cars, carrying seven members of the society and Poole, finally reached the scene of the execution."

Most of the men held are said to be natives of parts of Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi where the Ku Klux Klan has flourished.

Inspector Navarre quoted the men held as saying that the principles of the society are for the good behavior of members, anti-communism, 100 per cent Americanism and clean politics.

The organization's literature sets forth that it is anti-Catholic, anti-Jewish and anti-Negro, and that it was formed to oppose communism and uphold the Constitution.

The Black Legion's existence in this area was first disclosed to the authorities last Summer when three men were arrested at Adrian, on a charge of carrying concealed weapons. The three had regalia of the organization in their car and admitted to officers they had attended meetings of the secret society near Adrian.

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50 SAID MARKED FOR EXECUTION BY 'KKK BRANCH'

Scores Report They Have Been Victims of Hooded Hoodlums as Police Investigate All Unsolved Murders and Deaths.

SAY POOLE KILLED TO KEEP HIM QUIET

Suspects Aver Life Not Worth Nickel If They Talk; Those Who Have, Afraid To Be Freed.

DETROIT, May 23.—(AP)—State Police Captain Ira H. Marmon, terming the Black Legion "the strong-arm agency for the Ku Klux Klan," announced today that he was investigating a report that 50 Michigan men had been marked for death by the secret vigilante organization.

Captain Marmon said that for months his troopers have been making an extensive investigation of the night-rider society, four of whose members have confessed the slaying of Charles A. Poole here.

Against Jews, Catholics.

The Black Legion's Michigan headquarters are at Napoleon, Captain Marmon said, and there are units in Adrian, Hillsdale, Jackson and Detroit. Prospective members are asked if they will "take up arms against Jews, negroes, and Catholics," he said.

"We are checking all unsolved murder cases and a number of questionable suicides in the state," he said, explaining that he had received a report that the Black Legion was responsible for a number of deaths which had been made to appear suicidal.

Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea, rejecting as "too fantastic" the explanation in the four confessions that Poole was killed because he had beaten his wife, began an investigation of the possibility the young WPA worker was "executed" because he knew too much of the inner workings of the hooded order.

Victims of Mobs.

Reports that scores of other citihad been victims of mob terrorism poured into the prosecutor's office.

McCrea said he had received numerous telephone calls since the round-up Friday of 16 members of the Black Legion, from men who said they had been abducted and beaten by black-robed night riders wearing the death's head insignia of the legion.

"All indications are that this is a powerful organization and one report is that it has 10,000 members in Wayne (Detroit) county," McCrea said. "Our investigation will not stop until we get to the bottom of this."

McCrea said the confessions of four of the men that Poole, a young WPA worker, was put to death May 13 on a little-traveled township road because they believed he had beaten his wife were "too fantaistic to believe."

"We have not been told the real motive," he declared. "The men in custody say their lives are not worth a nickel if they talk too much, and those who have talked say they want to stay in jail for safety."

"There have been all kinds of wild rumors that the Black Legion has a huge membership throughout the country, that it is seeking political control and that it is closely organized in every county in Michigan, but we haven't got any definite evidence on them," McCrea said.

Murder warrants will be issued Monday, the prosecutor said, for Harvey Davis, a "colonel" of the Black Legion; Dayton Dean, who has confessed firing five shots into Poole's body as the young father of two small children knelt before his captors; Irvin Lee, Urban Lipps, George C. Johnson, Paul R. Edwards and Edgar Baldwin.

Detailed confessions obtained from the first four named, Prosecutor McCrea said, would form the basis for charges the other three were present at the slaying.

Wife Denies Cruelty.

Murder charges also may be placed, McCrea said, against Lowell Rushing, a relative of Poole's wife by marriage, and Hershell Gill, who are accused of instigating mob action against Poole.

Mrs. Poole, 21, denounced as a "wicked lie" the accusation against her husband. "Charles never beat me," she said. "He was always good and kind."

William W. Voisine, president of Ecorse village whose home was bombed last August 7, asked McCrea to investigate the possibility that the Black Legion was responsible for the crime.

"There is a whole gang of these night riders out here," he said, "and I am told one of their leaders is a politician active against me."

McCrea summoned Leslie J. Black, president of the Wolverine Republican Club, to which the 16 men under arrest belonged, to his office today, but Black said he had not known of the Black Legion until the arrests were made.

"The league is purely political," McCrea quoted him as saying. "If any members also are members of the Black Legion, they will be kicked out."

PRISON GUARD HELD IN MASKED DEATH

JACKSON, Miss., May 23.—(AP) Ray Ernest, a guard at the southern Michigan prison, was detained tonight and Witnesses for a one-man grand jury were summoned hastily to investigate the reported flogging and death of Paul Avery, 42.

Avery, who also was a guard at the prison, died April 14 at his home near here of what physicians pronounced heart disease and diabetes.

His widow and his son, Ralph, 20, told Prosecutor Owen Dudley, however, that Avery had been flogged by a group of masked men and that he "seemed to pine away after the beating."

"Several men came to the house one night in February, when he (Avery) was trying to withdraw from the organization," Mrs. Avery was quoted as saying her husband had told her. "They put him in a car, blindfolded him and drove him to a farm house about two and one-half miles away. There they took off the blindfold and took him into the building and flogged him. They threatened to 'string him up,' he said, if he failed to attend the next three meetings."

KKK HEAD DENIES ANY CONNECTION

NEW YORK, May 23.—(AP) Hiram W. Evans, imperial wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, tonight indignantly denied reports the United Brotherhood of America, under investigation at Detroit in the death of a WPA worker, had any connection with the Klan.

The Klan, he said, had no "superorganisation" and no affiliates, and was formally aligned on the side of law against all sorts of illegal violence or mob action.

Negro Confesses Attack Before Death In Chair

NASHVILLE, TENN., May 22.—(AP)—The life of E. K. Harris, negro, once saved by National Guardsmen who fired into a mob and killed four persons, was forfeited in the electric chair today for his attack on a young white girl near Shelbyville.

A. W. Neely, penitentiary warden, said the 23-year-old negro made a "full confession" shortly before his death.

The girl was attacked near Shelbyville in the Fall of 1934. When Harris's trial started on Dec. 18, 1934, a mob stormed the courthouse, which was guarded by state militiamen. The onslaughts were met first with tear gas bombs, and then with rifle and machine gun fire.

RENEWED APPEALS FOR U. S. AID MADE IN WAR ON CULT

Legislation To Empower J. Edgar Hoover's Department To Strike at Robed Legion Sought in Both Senate and House.

GROUPS ACTIVE IN MANY STATES

Police Officers in Detroit Found on Membership List Seized in Raid on Headquarters of Legion.

DETROIT, May 28.—(AP)—New appeals to the federal government to throw its power into the fight to uproot the Black Legion, secret society of night-riding terrorists, were before a half dozen governmental agencies tonight.

Resolutions demanding congressional investigations awaited action in both the house and senate in Washington, where the Michigan democratic congressional committee was drafting legislation to empower J. Edgar Hoover's Department of Justice operatives to strike at the black-robed order.

U. S. Asks Evidence.

In Washington, Attorney General Cummings invited Michigan state authorities to submit evidence the "Black Legion" had violated federal laws.

House and senate members there also took action during the day, designed to clear the way for the federal government to assume jurisdiction in an investigation and possible prosecutions.

The Cummings message said:

"As, of course, you are aware, the authority of the Department of Justice in criminal matters is limited to violations of federal statutes.

"If you have any information indicating that a federal offense has been committed I would suggest that you submit the same to the Department of Justice at Washington."

McCrea said tonight he would offer specific cases of Black Legion activity to the Department of Justice as proof that federal laws had been violated. He refused to specify the nature of the cases.

Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea sought new light on the extent of the Black Legion, which he believes is active in at least 15 states, by proposing that the Internal Revenue Department check up on the income tax returns of Virgil F. Effinger, Lima (Ohio) contractor who has asserted that the organization has a national membership of 6,000,000.

Monthly Collections.

McCrea said he had evidence indicating that Effinger is collecting 10 cents a month from members of the Black Legion, as well as selling them the death's head robes and other regalia they are charged with wearing on the midnight flogging parties of which they are accused in several states.

Postoffice inspectors were reported at work in Jackson, Mich., where five men are charged with beating a reluctant member with the heavy, three-pronged whips such as have been seized in several recent raids, checking reports that mail carriers there belong to the order. One mail carrier is under suspension.

Still another federal inquiry was sought by Representative Dingell, democrat, Michigan, who said he would ask that a federal grand jury be called.

In Detroit, where the slaying of Charles A. Poole Mal 13 led to the fast moving expose of the Black Legion, charges were heard that the shrouded band had enrolled numerous Detroit patrolmen and southern Michigan prison guards in an effort to build up swiftly an organization skilled in the use of firearms and permitted legally to own them.

Officers' Names Found.

"We have no idea how deep the inroads of the Black Legion into police personnel may be," said Chief of Detectives Henry W. Reid. "The names of several officers have been found on lists seized from Black Legion members."

Three teams of detectives were assigned to the investigation and five police officers were summoned to the office of Police Commissioner Heinrich Pickert for questioning.

A parallel investigation is under way in the department of street railways, and eight employes have been suspended.

A resolution demanding an investigation of the Black Legion in Ohio, where it has been accused of night riding and with attempting to gain control of relief activities in the Lima area, was placed before the Ohio senate immediately after an earlier resolution to the same effect had been defeated.

In Boston, officials said state detectives and federal postal inspectors were attempting to learn if numerous threatening letters and dummy bombs sent recently to citizens and officials in New England were the work of the Black Legion.

Still other echoes of terrorism were heard in Saylersville, Ky., where a number of floggings of both men and women were attributed by authorities to a secret society known as the "Black Legs." It was not known whether the group there was affiliated with the Black Legion.

The resolution introduced today in Washington by Senator Benson, farmer-labor, Minnesota, asked a joint house and senate inquiry of the Black Legion and "such subversive groups," and declared that members of the Black Legion had confessed "plotting to overthrow the government of the United States and the establishment of a dictatorship in its stead."

Possible use of the Michigan criminal syndicalism statute as a weapon against the Black Legion was studied today by Prosecutor Owen Dudley, of Jackson county, who said the law prohibits any "advocacy of crime, sabotage, violence or terrorism as a means of accomplishing industrial or political reforms."

Mrs. Grace Lupp, wife of Arthur F. Lupp Sr., admitted "chief recruiting officer" for the Black Legion in Michigan, admitted to newspapermen today that she had been "colonel" of the women's auxiliary of the organization.

"We had a ritual and we wore robes," she said, "but I can't tell you about that. The ritual was milder than the men's, though."

Confiscated documents have shown that neophytes in the Black Legion take a fearsome oath with a loaded revolver pointed at their hearts.

Police Inspector John A. Hoffman said Detroit detectives were checking all the women whose names appeared on confiscated membership cards.

Search for the 12 "John Does" named with 13 others now under arrest on charges of kidnaping and "executing" Poole, was pressed today.

Dayton Dean, confessed "executioner" of the Black Legion, was taken from the county jail with homicide

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PROTECTION OFFER ELICITS FURTHER TERROR DETAILS

Grand Jury Investigates Charge Every Killed Because He Tried To Withdraw; 'Only Ex-Members 6 Feet Under.'

POLICE RUMORED MEMBERS OF MOB

Attempts To Dominate Flint, Pontiac Governments Charged; Auto Death Laid to Vigilantes

DETROIT, May 25.—(AP)—Political implications of the hooded and robed Black Legion came into the foreground tonight with the assertion by Harry Colburn, chief investigator for the Wayne county (Detroit) prosecutor's office that members told him the ultimate aim was a United States dictatorship.

Colburn previously had disclosed claims of members that there were 135,000 black legionnaires in Michigan alone, all pledged to possess arms, and all organized along military lines.

In Lima, Ohio, V. F. Effinger, who answered queries about his reported connection with the order by saying "What if I am the leader, we do not countenance murders," said the Black Legion has 3,000,000 members.

Colburn said members told him that the organization was perfected for the purpose of establishing a dictatorship "when the time is ripe," under the national leader (not Effinger) who, he said, lives near the Ohio-West Virginia border.

Product of Depression.

Arthur F. Lupp, Highland Park, Mich., milk inspector whose name was found in correspondence concerning the order, according to Owen Dudley, Jackson (Mich.) county prosecutor, submitted to questioning late today at police headquarters.

In an interview, Lupp said the Black Legion made its greatest growth during the depression.

"It is made up of good people in all walks of life, who were brought to their senses when communism and other isms crept into the United States from foreign countries," he said.

Asked about reports of floggings and other acts of terrorism ascribed to the organization, he replied "I can't discuss the ritual." He declared, however, that the slaying of Charles Poole, 32-year-old WPA worker for which 13 alleged Black Legion members were arraigned today, was without his knowledge. He knew nothing of it, he said, until he read of it in the newspapers.

Cannot Withdraw.

Of reports that Black Legion members are threatened with dire consequences should they withdraw, Lupp said: "When I join an organization, I make a pledge to stay with it for the rest of my life. You can't take that with a grain of salt."

He said the claims of 135,000 members in Michigan were "as good a guess as any," and declined to name his superior officers in the organization.

Colburn said he was investigating seven deaths in Detroit to ascertain if there was any connection with the Black Legion.

One, he said, was that of George Marchuk, described by police at the time as a radical sympathizer, of suburban Lincoln Park. He was found dead of a bullet wound on December 22, 1933, and his death was recorded as a suicide. Colburn declined to name the other persons whose deaths are under investigation.

Victims of mob terrorism came forward under promise of protection with new accounts of slayings, floggings and arson by masked night riders wearing the death's head insignia.

Charges that the outlawed secret order, which one investigator declared has an armed membership of 135,000 in Michigan alone, sought political dominance through scourge and pistol brought official inquiries in two large Michigan cities.

In another, a grand jury sifted evidence in a reported death by flogging, and in Detroit Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea asked the Department of Justice for aid in a fight "to uproot and destroy" the hooded organization whose members, he said, "once initiated can never resign."

13 Arraigned.

Thirteen members of the terrorist society were arraigned here today on charges of kidnaping and murder in the "ritual execution" of Charles A. Poole, whose death in a lonely roadside ditch brought into light the existence of the blood-banded fraternity.

Dayton Dean, city employe who has confessed he emptied two revolvers into Poole's bleeding body May 13, made a new statement today, John I. Navarre, head of the Detroit homicide squad, announced, in which he said the slayers had planned to hang the young WPA worker rather than shoot him to death.

Developments of the day included:

1. A grand jury investigation at Jackson into the death of Paul Every, whose widow charges he was beaten because he attempted to withdraw from the Black Legion.

2. An impending state grand jury investigation of the night-riding vigilantes.

3. Announcement at both Flint and Pontiac that rumors of Black Legion attempts at city political dominance would be sifted. Pontiac authorities announced an investigation to determine whether there is any basis for rumors certain patrolmen are members of a Black Legion unit.

4—An announcement by state police that at least seven witnesses, some of them former members of the Black Legion who were flogged, had agreed to testify secretly before the grand jury. "We may have as a witness a former member who tried to withdraw and whose barn was burned," the announcement said.

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Seek Higherups.

6—A search for suspected "higher-ups" in the organization.

7—The assertion at Jackson of Mrs. Ray Ernest, wife of a Michigan prison guard detained for questioning in Every's death, that the heavy whip found in the Ernest home together with Black Legion regalia, firearms and literature indicating Ernest was a "brigadier general" of the order, was hers and not her husband's. She told the prosecutor that she acquired the whip when she played in an "Uncle Tom" show.

8—An appeal by McCrea to all law enforcement agencies here, including the local office of the Department of Justice, for a "united front for the extermination of the Black Legion."

Among the documents seized in the raid on Ernest's home near Jackson was a copy of the initiation ritual by which each novitiate is ordered to arm himself as soon as possible and is required to bind himself to face death to carry out his superior's orders.

New members are told, Prosecutor Dudley said, that they may be given a special service requiring them to sign a pact in their own blood, that the purpose of the Black Legion is "to tear down, lay waste, despoil and kill our enemies" and that "mercy is repugnant."

The political aims of the band are shown, he said, by an oath required of every member that he will cast his vote in a public election in any way his chiefs demand.

The organization boasted, investigators said, that "our only former members are those who are six feet under."

Gruesome Oath.

"I pledge my heart," my brain, my body and my limbs, never to betray a comrade," Dudley said the membership oath read. "I will submit to all the tortures mankind can inflict, and suffer the most horrible death rather than reveal a single word of this, my oath.

"Before violating a single clause or implied pledge of this, my obligation, I will pray to an avenging God or an unmerciful devil to tear out my heart and roast it over flames of sulphur."

A "history" of the Black Legion, branded "pure moonshine" by investigators, was among the confiscated documents. It claimed that the organization went back to colonial days, and that its first escapade was the Boston tea party."

Assistant Prosecutor Ricca charged that membership was compulsory for those "invited" to join.

"A man might be asked to go on a fishing trip," Ricca said. "Then he would be notified he had been selected for membership and would be forced to go to a meeting at the point of a gun, if necessary, and required to take the oath of membership. No refusal was accepted."

Pleas of innocent were entered for 12 of the 13 held here in Poole's slaying when they stood mute at their arraignment today. They were denied bail and their examinations were set for Wednesday. The 13th man named in the warrants, George C. Johnson was reported ill in a hospital and his arraignment was deferred.

Six Said Present.

Those arraigned were Harvey Davis Black Legion "colonel," who McCrea said confessed that he presided at the meeting in the headquarters of the Wolverine Republican League when Poole's abduction was planned; Dayton Dean, Ervin D. Lee, Urban Lipps, Paul R. Edwards, and Edgar Baldwin, all of whom are accused of having been present at the "execution;" Herschel Gill and Lowell Rushing, relatives by marriage of Poole; Thomas R. Craig, John Bannerman, John B. Mitchell and John S. Vincent.

Prosecutor McCrea, who had branded as "too fantastic" earlier statements by four of the men that the motive for slaying Poole was the accusation, since proved to be false, that he had beaten his wife, announced today that two of them had admitted that "Poole was put to death because he knew too much. Poole was not a member.

Member of Black Legion Changes Confession

Dayton Dean (above, right), who changed his confession of the slaying of Charles A. Poole, fellow WPA worker, with a statement he meant to hang rather than shoot the victim, who reportedly "knew too much." At the top left is shown the official regalia of the vigilantes, said to number 135,000 in Michigan alone. Below is some of the paraphernalia seized by police in a raid on headquarters of the cult.

Legion Ramification Grows; More Deaths Probed

Mob Terrorism Victims Come Forward Under Protection Promise

DETROIT, May 25.—(AP)—Investigations of the Black Legion multiplied today as victims of mob terrorism came forward under promise of protection with new accounts of slayings, floggings, and arson by masked night riders wearing the death's head insignia of the secret order.

Charges that the outlawed brotherhood, which one investigator declared has an armed membership of 135,000 in Michigan alone, sought political dominance through scourge and pistol brought official inquiries in two large Michigan cities.

In another a grand jury sifted evidence in a reported death by flogging and in Detroit Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea asked the Department of Justice for aid in a fight "to uproot and destroy the hooded organization whose members, he said, "once initiated can never resign."

13 Members Arraigned

Thirteen members of the terrorist society were arraigned here today on charges of kidnaping and murder in the "ritual execution" of Charles A. Poole, whose death in a lonely roadside ditch brought into light the existence of the blood-banded fraternity.

Dayton Dean, city employe who has confessed he emptied two revolvers into Poole's kneeling body May 13, made a new statement today, John I. Navarre, head of the Detroit homicide squad, announced in which he said the slayers had planned to hang the young WPA worker rather than shoot him to death.

Developments of the day included:

1—A grand jury investigation at Jackson into the death of Paul Every, whose widow charges he was beaten because he attempted to withdraw from the Black Legion.

2—An impending State grand jury investigation of the night riding vigilantes.

3—Announcements at both Flint and Pontiac that rumors of Black Legion attempts at city political dominance would be sifted. Pontiac authorities announced an investigation to determine whether there is any basis for rumors certain patrolmen are members of a Black Legion unit.

Have Seven Witnesses

4—An announcement by state police that at least seven witnesses, some of them former members of the Black Legion who were flogged, had agreed to testify secretly before the grand jury. "We may have as a witness a former member who tried to withdraw and whose barn was burned," the announcement said.

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Copy of Ritual Seized

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Get Suspect List

Two women, who said they were the wives of unwilling members of the Black Legion, gave a list of 25 names of suspected members of the organization's branch in Jackson to State police there today.

One of them said her husband was flogged several times for refusing to attend meetings, and that he had attended regularly since a cartridge was placed in his hand with the threat he would be shot to death if he persisted in his attempts to withdraw.

Glenn Ernest, a brother of Ray Ernest, was a witness before the Jackson grand jury, and several others, employed with Ray Ernest as guards at the prison, also were called. Another of those summoned was Floyd J. Riethmuller, a former Jackson County undersheriff.

A. F. Lupp, Sr., an employe of the Detroit Board of Health, appeared at the prosecutor's office late this afternoon for questioning concerning a letter found in Ray Ernest's home. The letter, signed 'Art Lupp, B. G.," asked: "How are you getting along with your new boss. If you're not, maybe we can do something about it."

Also sought, for interrogation, McCrea said, is V. F. Effinger, of Lima, Ohio, who appeared at Adrian, Mich., last Summer to appeal to the prosecutor to release three men state police had charged with carrying concealed weapons after firearms and black hoods and robes were found in their automobile.

Leader Claims Membership Of 3,000,000 For Organization

LIMA, OHIO, May 25.—(AP)—V. F. Effinger, sought for questioning by Detroit authorities investigating the Black Legion, said tonight the organization has a membership of 3,000,000 and expressed the hope it would not be "brought into disrepute" by current investigations.

When asked directly if he held membership in the hooded legion, he said "none of your business. What if I am the leader? We do not countenance murders."

Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea, of Wayne County (Detroit), who announced that Effinger was wanted for interrogation, said earlier in the day that the leader of the western division of the Black Legion had headquarters in Lima. He said the division covered Ohio, Pennsylvania and Michigan.

'Black Legion's' Crime Reported By Many States

Investigation By Congress To 'Blow The Lid Off' Organization Is Sought

Hearing Continued

Twelve Men Brought Into Detroit Court In Irons; Denied Release On Bail

DETROIT, May 27—(AP)—A congressional investigation to "blow the lid off" the black legion and kindred organizations loomed today as additional indications of the widespread ramifications of the secret terrorist society reached investigators.

The demand for congressional action was made by Representative Dickstein, (D) New York, almost at the moment Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea telegraphed Attorney General Cummings an appeal for assistance for the department of justice in his investigation.

Dickstein introduced a resolution in the House asking appointment of a committee of seven to investigate the Black Legion, "The Black Shirt," "The Christian Party," "The A. B. C. Legion of New York" and "The Robert Edward Edmonson organization of New York."

In his request for department of justice aid, McCrea said he has received letters from officers or individuals in "from 15 to 18" states relating crimes attributed to the Black Legion. Some of these involved kidnapings in which state lines were crossed "for murder or intimidation" McCrea said.

Fails To Name States

McCrea did not name the states, but said he had received letters from Chicago and New York indicating the existence of the outlawed brotherhood in both cities.

Dickstein said he had information that the activities of the Black Legion centered in Michigan, Ohio, Colorado, Pennsylvania and to some extent in New York.

Rumors of Black Legion aspirations to a dictatorship enforced by scourge and knife were under scrutiny in some of the states named, and in Michigan. Attorney General Davis H. Crowley asked that a grand jury be called to conduct a state-wide investigation of the secret society.

Twelve of the 13 men charged here with the "ritual execution" of Charles A. Poole were brought in irons into common pleas court today for examination, but the hearing was adjourned after three witnesses had told of identifying the body of the 32-year-old WPA worker who "knew too much" about the Black Legion.

Adjournment Asked

McCrea asked the adjournment, explaining that additional arrests, involving the same evidence, were imminent. He pointed out that one of the 13 men charged with Poole's slaying was too ill to appear in court, that that 12 others still are sought on "John Doe" warrants.

Denied release on bail the prisoners were returned to the county jail.

Two Michigan congressmen disclosed that they had received threats, possibly from the Black Legion. Representative Hoffman said in Washington that he had received an unsigned letter telling him he "ought to be under a plot of ground two by six feet," and Representative Dondero said in his last campaign that he was told:

"If you want to be reelected, you had better join the bullet club," Charges have been made in Pontiac that the bullet club is a subsidiary of the Black Legion.

Dondero's home is in nearby Royal Oak, where investigators are examining the possibility that Father Charles E. Coughlin's original shrine of the Little Flower was burned last March 17 by the Black Legion, which has for a principal tenet opposition to the Catholic Church.

Inquiry In Colorado

Developments outside Michigan included an inquiry in Colorado to determine if warning handbills distributed during the recent blockade against alien labor were the work of the night riders' organization and the revelation that an Ohio relief worker had testified before a legislative committee that the Black Legion had sought control of work relief appointments in the Lima area.

The testimony at Lima was given by George Armstrong, who said the Black Legion members took an oath to kill their enemies "if necessary." His assertion was confirmed by documents seized in numerous recent raids in Michigan.

Michigan State police have charged that Lima is one of the "hot-beds" of the organization in the middle West. It is the home of V. F. Effinger, whom McCrea has sought to question concerning Black Legion activities.

Effinger was quoted today as saying "what if I am?" when asked if he were the regional commander of the order.

Four more employes of the Detroit Street Railways were suspended today when Arthur T. Mitford, chief of the department's intelligence division, charged them with membership in the Wolverine Republican League. The Black Legion used the name of the league in some of its activities.

To Take Personal Charge

The attorney general, saying that "I will take personal charge of the grand jury proceedings," declared:

"One of the things I want to find out is whether the Wolverine Republican League was organized first and then invaded by the Black Legion, or whether it was organized as a blind to the legion activities."

Crowley indicated he placed little credence in the report that Prosecutor McCrea had applied for membership in the Black Legion, and said he had evidence which "lent color" to McCrea's explanation that he may have signed an application blank unwittingly while campaigning for office

Crowley also denied rumors that McCrea would be barred from the grand jury hearings.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Michigan.

5337

Black Legion Killing To Be Aired As 12 Face Trial Monday In Detroit

DETROIT, Aug. 29—(AP)—On the night of May 12, the desperate pleas of a bewildered WPA worker were answered by a fusillade of shots, and his body, with five bullets through the chest, tumbled into the ditch beside a lonely country road.

The shots killed Charles A. Poole and brought exposure to the Black Legion. Monday in Circuit Court 12 men are scheduled to go on trial for the killing.

Dayton Dean, the two-gun "executioner" who said "I didn't even have to aim. I was only five or six feet away," will be the principal witness against the 12 the State charges arranged to kill Poole "because he knew too much" about the Black Legion.

It was Dean who created a sensation at the examination of himself and the other defendants June 3 by announcing that he wanted to make a full confession in court. It was Dean whose accounts of other crimes he attributed to the terroristic organization led to the arrest of most of the 79 men who have been charged with [illegible] crimes ranging from perjury and arson to kidnaping and murder.

The investigations set in motion by the killing of Poole and by Dean's numerous statements brought to light a picture of the Black Legion as a band of terrorists, held together by bigotry, horrendous oaths, and fear of their fellow members; a band that dreamed of achieving political dominance and preferred positions for its members in industry.

A Black Legion plot to seize control of the Federal Government through a coup d'etat in which armed members were to converge on Government arsenals and buildings was charged in a grand jury indictment brought last week against 22 men.

Whether such a plot existed, or whether grandiose talk of such a scheme was indulged in by leaders merely as a means of holding the interest of the members is one of the questions the State hopes to have answered during the series of trials beginning Monday with the Poole case.

Dean, who has pleaded guilty to murder in the Poole shooting, said in the court statement he made under the glares of his co-defendants, that he fired the shots "because I was ordered to. In the Black Legion you have to do what your superior officer orders you to do."

The triggerman's confession related that Poole, a non-member had been accused at a Black Legion meeting of beating his wife, who was about to become a mother.

"Some said 'whip him,' some said 'hang him,' and some said 'shoot him,'" Dean testified at the examination, relating that the meeting broke up with "50 or 60" of those present starting for the point on a gulley road where he said it had been arranged to take Poole "on a one-way ride."

The political aspects of the Black Legion's activities leaped to the fore again in the indictment last week of the 22 under Michigan's famed criminal syndicalism law, originally drafted as a weapon against communism.

The indictment also focussed attention again on Virgil F. (Bert) Effinger, Lima, Ohio, electrical contractor who is described by Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea, of Wayne County (Detroit), as the national commander of the organization. Effinger once said that the Black Legion had 6,000,000 members. This claim was scouted by investigators.

Five Men Charged In Black Legion Plot

DETROIT, Aug. 24.—(AP)—Five men were charged today with a Black Legion plot to murder a city commissioner of suburban Highland Park in a new series of indictments returned by the state grand jury investigating the black-cloaked night riding organization.

The five, whose names were withheld pending their arrest, were charged with conspiring against the life of Martin H. Zink, former superintendent of the suburb's department of public works, who has been a member of the city council for several years.

They also were charged with conspiring to kill Arthur L. Kingsley, publisher of the suburb's community newspaper. Sixteen alleged members of the Black Legion previously had been charged with plotting against Kingsley's life, but grand jury aids said the new indictment was based on a separate plot to do away with the publisher.

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22 IN BLACK LEGION INDICTED IN PLOT

Effinger and Other Chiefs of Band Accused Under Michigan Syndicalism Law.

COUP SET FOR SEPT. 16

Arsenals Were to Be Stormed in Uprising to Seize Federal Rule, It Is Alleged.

DETROIT, Aug. 21 (AP).—Twenty-two men described as officers of the Black Legion were indicted today on criminal syndicalism charges based on allegations that they plotted an armed uprising to take over the Federal Government.

Among those named in warrants signed by Circuit Judge James E. Chenot, who presided over the State's Black Legion grand jury, was Virgil F. Effinger of Lima, Ohio, said by Prosecutor Duncan C. McRea to be national commander of the organization of terrorists.

Chester P. O'Hara, Assistant State's Attorney General, said that more warrants would be issued Monday.

The warrants charge the men with "acting in concert to advocate crime, sabotage, violence or other forms of terrorism as a means of accomplishing industrial or political reform."

Governor Frank D. Fitzgerald said here that he would sign extradition papers for Effinger at once. Twenty patrolmen were sent out to round up those not already in custody awaiting trial for other crimes attributed to the Black Legion.

The indictments were based on affidavits by Dayton Dean, confessed "triggerman" in the Black Legion killing May 12 of Charles A. Poole, to the effect that Effinger and others advocated overthrow of the government by violence and had planned a coup d'état for Sept. 16.

Mobilization Plan Alleged

Members were to converge on given points on receipt of the signal, Dean said, and were to attempt to seize government buildings and arsenals.

"Effinger said the Black Legion would do it without any trouble," Dean said in his affidavit. "He said we would do away with politicians and government officials."

Dean added that Effinger advocated the use of the blacksnake whip and "the rope to hang and guns to shoot the enemies of the Black Legion."

The new warrant was the second obtained against Effinger here in the last few days, Mr. McCrea having charged him last week with possession of six hand grenades while attending a Black Legion meeting here a year ago.

Mr. McCrea asserted today that he had obtained statements from three Black Legion officers that Effinger had boasted he would be able to bring about the release of fourteen members of the Black Legion awaiting trial on murder charges in the Poole killing.

The indictment returned today contained two charges, violation of the Michigan Criminal Syndicalism Statute and a conspiracy charge with eight counts. Conviction under the syndicalism law carries a maximum penalty of ten years imprisonment and $5,000 fine, and under the conspiracy charge five years.

Trial of eleven of the men charged with kidnapping and killing Poole was set today in Circuit Court for Aug. 31.

Two Get Prison Terms

Harvey Davis, one of the men indicted today, is among the defendants in the Poole case, and is also charged with the Black Legion "thrill killing" of Silas Coleman, Negro hod carrier.

Two Black Legion members were sentenced today in another court to three to five years for the "false imprisonment" of Robert Penland, steel worker who, the State charged, was kidnapped and flogged for non-attendance at meetings of the masked band. Those sentenced were Frederick A. Gulley and Thomas A. Cox.

Mr. O'Hara declared that he would use Dean's affidavit and the warrant based on it in an attempt to bring Effinger here from Lima rather than the charge that Effinger had hand-grenades in his possession here.

Dean's statement said that he had been a member of the Black Legion from 1933 and that he was attached to the "brigade headquarters staff." In that capacity, he said, he came to know Effinger as the "major general" in charge of a district which included Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois and territory westward of the Pacific Coast.

He quoted Effinger as saying in many speeches that it was the purpose of the Black Legion to take over government arsenals and warning members to arm themselves and be ready for the "call word."

When the word came, Effinger told members, according to Dean, they were to drop everything and go to the city or place indicated.

"Classes" Declared Held

Members running for public office were to receive undivided support of the organization, Effinger told his "classes," Dean asserted, and those elected were under strict orders not to hire any Negroes, Jews or Catholics. If they persisted in doing so after a first warning, Dean added, they "would be taken for a one-way ride and would be hanged or shot."

Mr. McCrea said the three affidavits in support of Dean's statement were made by Russell Trilek, Joseph K. Allen and Andrew J. Ray.

These men told him, the prosecutor said, that they visited Effinger in Lima a month ago, and that he told them he would bring about the release of all the Poole case defendants except Dean, through his influence with the Democratic party "down South."

They added that Effinger vetoed a proposal to arrange a jail break to release the men, because the Black Legion "would lose too many men in doing so."

All captains in the organization were ordered last Spring to check on the number of men who were armed with pistols or shotguns, these affidavits asserted, and were constantly reminded to "remember Sept. 16," the late Dean said had been set for the alleged coup.

ELEVEN ARE CONVICTED IN BLACK LEGION PLOT

Seven Guilty of Murder, Four Implicated; Other Trials Due.

9-30-36

DETROIT, Sept. 29.—(AP)—Eleven members of the Black Legion were convicted today of plotting the lynching which exposed the existence of the secret terrorist society with its dreams of a moral and political dictatorship.

Seven of the band were convicted of first-degree murder in the roadside "execution" last May 12 of Charles A. Poole, a verdict which carries with it a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment. The other four were convicted of second-degree murder. They may be sentenced for any term of years up to or including life, in the discretion of the court.

The jury of nine men and three women filed back into the heavily-guarded courtroom of Circuit Judge Joseph A. Moynihan with the verdict one hour and 25 minutes after beginning deliberations. Mrs. Rebecca Poole, pretty 21-year-old widow of the man who was killed because of false gossip he had mistreated her, was among the spectators who waited tensely for the verdict.

Those convicted of first-degree murder were "Colonel" Harvey Davis, Ervin D. Lee, Paul R. Edwards, Edgar Baldwin and Urban Lipps, all of whom were present when Poole was shot to death by Dayton Dean as he pleaded vainly that "there must be some mistake;" Lowell Rushing, accused of instigating the plot to "straighten Poole out," and John Bannerman, charged with setting out for the death scene with a rope with which Poole was to have been hanged.

Dean, who has pleaded guilty to murder, testified as a state witness that he opened fire on Davis' orders when an open draw-bridge prevented Bannerman from joining the "necktie party."

Fifteen cases against the Black Legion ranging from floggings and arson to murder conspiracies and an alleged coup d'etat plot to seize federal buildings and arsenals, still are pending.

The principal cases remaining to be heard involve the alleged "thrill killing" of Silas Coleman, negro, during a Black Legion drinking party, the alleged conspiracies to kill Arthur L. Kingsley, Highland Park editor; Martin H. Zink, Highland Park city commissioner, and William W. Voisine, mayor of suburban Ecorse, and the criminal syndicalism case in which 22 men have been indicted.

Judge Moynihan said he would not pronounce sentences in the present case for a few days.

FIRST DEGREE VERDICT FOR 7 TERRORISTS

Court Heavily Guarded as Jury Convicts Slayers of Poole

Herald Wash

REPRISALS FEARED

9-30-36

One Freed, 2 Convicted in Second Degree in Detroit Trial

New York

(By United Press)

DETROIT, Sept. 29. — Eleven members of the vigilante Black Legion today were found guilty of murder in the slaying of Charles A. Poole last May 12.

A jury in the courtroom of Circuit Judge Joseph A. Moynihan returned verdicts of murder in the first degree against seven members of the hooded and robed night riding order, found two others guilty of second degree murder, and acquitted a tenth defendant.

The court found two other defendants, who had waived jury trial, guilty in the lesser degree.

The jury of nine men and three women deliberated only one hour and a half before returning what was believed to be the largest number of convictions for a single murder in Michigan's court history.

Face Life

Facing life imprisonment, Michigan's maximum penalty for murder, were "Colonel" Harvey Davis, alleged ringleader in the plot to slay Poole, an alleged wife beater; Urban Lipps, John Bannerman, Ervin Lee, Paul Edwards, Edgar Baldwin, and Lowell Rushing.

Verdicts of second degree murder were returned by the jury in the cases of Thomas R. Craig and Virgil Morrow. In the latter case, the jury of nine men and three women recommended mercy.

Gill's acquittal in the strange case had been expected. Assistant - General Chester P. O'Hara, in his summation, had suggested this to the jury.

Sentence Later

Gill was released immediately, while the other defendants were remanded to the custody of the sheriff. Judge Moynihan set no date for sentence, which will be imposed after the probation department returns its report on the cases.

The four defendants found guilty of second degree murder face sentences ranging from one year to life, at the discretion of the court.

Each man stood stolidly before the bench when the verdicts were read. The wives of several defendants sobbed.

Courtroom Heavily Guarded

(Daily Worker Michigan Bureau)

DETROIT, Mich., Sept. 29.—An extra-heavy guard was placed on duty in the court-room today with instructions to search all spectators for weapons as Judge Moynihan charged the jury for a verdict in the trial of twelve Black Legion killers of Charles Poole.

The three-week trial was concluded yesterday after prosecution and defense delivered summaries. The strong guard became particularly necessary because of the apparent large attendance of Black Legion supporters who on one occasion during the trial had already created a disturbance.

9-30

O'HARA, McCREA DIFFER

Prosecution showed a serious defect yesterday as the contest for the office of prosecutor between assistant attorney general Chester P. O'Hara and Prosecutor Duncan McCrea appeared to have crept into the concluding arguments. O'Hara, opening the arguments in behalf of the State, divided the 12 defendants into three categiries; six, who testimony showed were at the scene of the shooting and plotted in advance, he said, are guilty of murder while the guilt of five, who were in Findlater Temple where the lynching was plotted but did not reach the scene of the crime because their car was held up by a draw-bridge over River Rouge, was still in doubt, he said. The latter car carried the suitcase with ropes intended for the originally planned hanging. The twelfth, Herschell Gill, O'Hara stated, should be acquitted, because the only evidence against him is that the rumors of Poole beating his wife, the supposed excuse for the killing, originated in his home.

ALL MURDERERS—McCREA

McCrea, concluding the case for the state, countered O'Hara's distinctions between the killers and charged that all knew of the plot and were as guilty as Dayton Dean, the triggerman. He called attention to Gill's statement ten days before the killing, that "if the organization is any good it will take care of Poole." McCrea also countered O'Hara's contention that there was doubt if the five who did not reach the scene of the crime actually knew of what was to happen to Poole.

O'Hara, who was assigned by Attorney-General David Crowley to intervene in the Black Legion investigation and practically to supersede McCrea, a Democrat, has continually interjected to throw partial concessions to the Black Legion in the trials and hearings that have already taken place. His intervention caused the release of three Black Legion leaders in the recent flogging-kidnaping trial.

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11 IN BLACK LEGION GUILTY OF MURDER

Times

Seven, Convicted in First Degree by Detroit Jury, Face Mandatory Life Terms.

9-30-36

'COLONEL' DAVIS INCLUDED

New York

Second Degree Verdict for Four in Poole Slaying—One Defendant Is Acquitted.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DETROIT, Sept. 29.—All except one of the twelve men on trial for the Black Legion slaying of Charles A. Poole May 12 were found guilty of murder today.

A jury found seven guilty of murder in the first degree, which makes a life sentence mandatory; two guilty of second degree murder, for which they can be sentenced to any term up to and including life, and one not guilty.

Circuit Judge Joseph A. Moynihan, trying two defendants without the jury, convicted them of second degree murder.

The verdict was reached with surprising speed, considering the number of defendants and the varying parts they played in the slaying. An hour and twenty-five minutes after the jury retired word was received that a verdict had been reached.

Those Found Guilty

The men convicted of first degree murder were:

Harvey Davis, "colonel" in the Black Legion and branded as the ringleader of the slaying mob

Erving D. Lee, a Black Legion "adjutant," said to have fired some shots but not at the victim.

Urban Lippe, who remained at Poole's side during the kidnapping and all the way to the lonely grove where the slaying took place.

Lowell Rushing, related by marriage to the victim and named as the man who started the false gossip that Poole was beating his wife, which inspired the slaying.

Edgar Baldwin, who drove one of the cars to the murder scene.

Paul R. Edwards, who helped kidnap Poole.

John Bannerman, who did not reach the scene of the killing because, the State charged, he was delayed while on the way to the spot with a rope with which Poole was to be hanged.

Convicted by the jury of second degree murder were Virgil Morrow and Thomas R. Craig, who were at the Black Legion meeting at which Poole's death was plotted and who started for the scene of slaying with the others but did not arrive there.

Those found guilty by Judge Moynihan were John S. Vincent, Black Legion "major," and Albert Stevens, who likewise failed to reach the slaying scene. They had waived jury trial.

Youthful Defendant Freed

Youthful Hershel Gill was acquitted. He was saved, apparently, by the final argument of Assistant Attorney General Chester P. O'Hara, who advised his acquittal. Gill's only proved part in the conspiracy was listening to the gossip in his home and remarking that "if the organization was any good it would take care of Poole."

Mr. O'Hara intervened in the trial, which was started by Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea. Mr. McCrea asked for the conviction of all the defendants.

The defendants, sitting in two rows facing the jury, accepted the verdict stoically.

Rebecca Poole, widow of the slain man, who gave birth to her second child only a few days before the slaying, waited nervously while the verdict was being read, then edged close to Rushing and whispered tearfully, "I hope you never come out alive."

Dayton Dean, who fired the shots which killed Poole, had pleaded guilty to murder and was a State witness.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Michigan

5338

General Cotton Strike

Benson Asks U. S. Inquiry As Detroit and Ohio Begin Terrorist Investigations

Band Threatened Girl During Onion Strike at Lima Year Ago

Highlights on the nation's war on the Black Legion today:

Washington, D. C. — Senator Benson, Farmer-Labor Party, placed before Congress an investigation resolution.

Columbus, O.—Legislative action was asked by Senator Zoul.

Boston, Mass.—At demand of the Communist Party, Governor Curley replied that the Legion is being investigated.

New York City.—High police officials queried Detroit for leads to hooded vigilante activities in metrop[illegible].

Detroit, Mich.—While 1933 death of Communist [illegible] was being probed, five Detroit police found to be Legion members; 60 more suspected of membership in murder band.

Detroit, Mich.—"G" men send letter to Prosecutor McCrea in answer to his plea for Federal assistance. Contents not revealed.

Detroit, Mich.—Attorney General Crowley plans to remove Prosecutor McCrea from lead in Black Legion investigation.

Circuit Judge James E. Chenot oppointed to act as one-man jury to investigate Legion in Wayne County.

WASHINGTON, May 28 (UP).—A joint resolution for a Congressional Investigation of the Black Legion and "un-American activities" of secret orders in general was introduced in the Senate today by Sen. Elmer Benson, Farmer-Labor, Minnesota.

A similar resolution was introduced yesterday in the House by Rep. Samuel Dickstein, D., N. Y.

The moves came while the Department of Justice considered possible federal action against the night ridders.

The Benson resolution calls for appointment of four Senators and four Representatives to hold hearings at any or all points within the United States at any time. The committee would have power to subpoena witnesses and take testimony under oath, summon any and all records, communications and papers of such organizations or their members, and to compel attendance. A fund of $50,000 would be authorized and a report required not later than Jan. 15, 1937.

Detroit Police Involved

Five Detroit policemen were added today to the list of persons suspected of affiliation with the vigilante Black Legion and were ordered to appear before Police Commissioner Heinrich A. Pickert for questioning.

As Judge James E. Chenot was being named a one-man jury to begin formal investigation of the Black Legion in Wayne County, authorities disclosed they were inquiring into reports that sixty or more additional members of the police department had taken the blood oath and undergone initiation into the terroristic [illegible].

Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea said he had urged the cooperation of Pickert and other high police officials in ascertaining how many members of the force were affiliated with the vigilante band. The Wayne County official awaited a letter from Federal Bureau of Investigation officials at Detroit replying to his request for aid in the inquiry.

Piel in Charge

Pickert placed his Chief of Detectives, Henry A. Piel, in charge of the investigation of the department. Piel has been active in the police quest for other members of the subversive organization in connection with the murder of Charles A. Poole, 32. Twelve members are held for kidnaping and murder in the case, while a thirteenth is in a hospital awaiting arraignment.

"We have no idea how active members of the Police Department are in the affairs of the Black Legion," Piel said. "This investigation may take some time to complete."

Membership in the Legion, Piel characterized as "a vicious influence on the morale of the department." He warned that all officers who have knowledge of the Legion or its activities "had better tell about it at once."

Found Names in Files

It was disclosed that the police officers first were implicated in Black Legion activities when membership files of the Detroit headquarters were seized. Officials declined to say whether preliminary investigation had indicated more than five were active in the robed and hooded night riders.

McCrea, who asked the aid of the Federal government yesterday in his investigation of the Black Legion, said he had not yet received a reply from Attorney General Homer S. Cummings at Washington. A letter sent him by Harold H. Reincke, head of the Department of Justice operatives here, was not received. Reincke declined to say what his answer had been to McCrea's request for cooperation.

The prosecutor said that information concerning Black Legion activities in 15 or 18 states, and specifically in the cities of New York and Chicago, would be given to Federal officials as soon as they expressed interest in the vigilante band.

Seek 12 Others

Police sought 12 other men named in John Doe warrants as participants in the slaying of Poole, who was shot down by masked night riders on the night of May 12 after he had been taken "for a ride." His death had been ordered, police said, because he knew too much about the Legion. It was believed that a number of these unknown men would be taken into custody some time today.

Michigan authorities today sought a criminal syndicalism indictment against the alleged district commander of the terroristic Black Legion, Vergil F. Effinger of Lima, O.

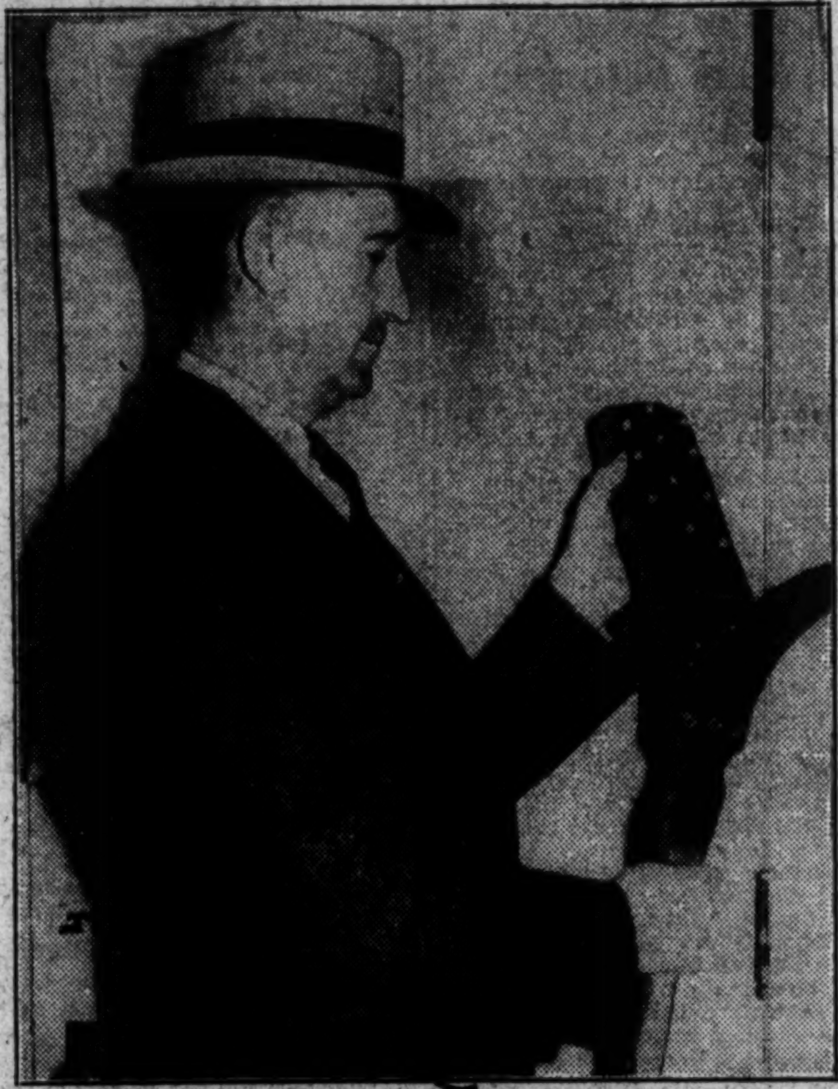
Making a second attempt to enlist Federal assistance in investigations of the secret vigilante organization, they also asked the Federal Bureau of Internal Revenue to inquire into Effinger's sources of income in the Black Legion district comprising Michigan, Ohio and Indiana.

Indictment Sought

While Detroit police officials investigated reports that five policemen were members of the Legion, the Jackson County Grand Jury at Jackson reopened hearings in cases of flogging, arson and kidnaping there. Prosecutor Owen Dudley said the jury would indict Effinger on criminal syndicalism charges arising from his activities in connection with the Black Legion in Jackson County last summer.

McCrea previously had sought the cooperation of the U. S. Depart-

Flogging Weapon Taken In Raid



THIS flogging weapon being examined by Sergt. William Watkins, of the Michigan State police, was seized in a raid on a Jackson home of a Black Legion officer. It has three cable leather straps bradded to a shaped hickory handle, and the center strap has holes cut in it to increase the effectiveness of the weapon. Officers charged it was used in Jackson County whippings by the secret society. (Associated Press Photo) staff of Justice. A decision by Attorney General Homer S. Cummings was expected soon.

Charges Against Effinger

Dudley arranged to confer with Attorney General David T. Crowley at Lansing tomorrow on the charges against Effinger. He charged Effinger had preached the doctrines of the hooded and robed vigilante band when he visited Jackson.

The statute provides:

"Any person who by word or writing advocates the duty and necessity for the propriety of crime, sabotage, violence or other unlawful methods of terrorism as a means of accomplishing industrial and political reform or organizes or becomes a member of or voluntarily assembles with any society, group or assembly of persons to teach or advocate doctrines of criminal syndicalism is guilty of a felony."

Crowley May Intervene

Attorney General Crowley at Lansing announced his office would intervene in McCrea's case against 12 Black Legionnaires charged with slaying Charles A. Poole, 32.

BLACK LEGION MEN HELD WITHOUT BAIL ON MURDER CHARGE

Times

Judge Calls Killing of Poole Michigan's 'Most Striking Crime' in 25 Years.

25 ACCUSED IN WARRANTS

Prisoner Says 'Necktie Party,' Not Shooting, Was Planned, Prosecution Declares.

LIMA 'LEADER' IS BOASTFUL

Oath Taken by the Members Requires a Pledge to Kill 'Our Enemies.'

By WILL LISSNER

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DETROIT, May 25.—Twelve members of th eBlack Legion, secret terrorist band, were held without bail today in common pleas court here on warrants charging them with murder and kidnapping in the vengeance slaying of Charles A. Poole, young WPA worker.

The warrants were issued this morning by Common Pleas Judge Ralph W. Liddy and name, in addition to the thirteen prisoners now in custody, twelve unidentified persons who attended the meeting of the armed, semi-military organization here May 12 which culminated in the "execution of Poole."

Judge Liddy, at the arraignment, granted a request that three of the prisoners be held incommunicado until their examination Wednesday. The three have made confessions, and two of them disclosed today that it had been planned before the meeting to hang Poole, who, the prosecution contends, "knew too much," about the gang. He was shot because of a confusion of schemes, the two said.

Fighting the segregation, defense lawyers disclosed in court that the thirteenth prisoner, also named in the warrants, was not produced in court for arraignment because he is a patient in Receiving Hospital. A 73-year-old man, he had been beaten by the police "almost to death," Bernard W. Cruse, counsel for eleven of the prisoners, charged.

Beating Issues Left Open

The others have been subjected to a constant "third degree" at headquarters, the attorney added.

Judge Liddy replied that he would not try the case in advance.

Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea denied that any of the men had been beaten, scoffed at the lawyer's statement that he had a client's blood-stained coat and shirt to prove his charge, and demanded medical evidence. None was produced.

While Wayne County authorities here moved for a speedy prosecution of the men linked to the Poole murder, accepting Wednesday for examination only at the insistence of the defense, Prosecutor Owen Dudley of Jackson examined witnesses all day before a one-man grand jury in an effort to smash the organization in Jackson County, a hot-bed of Black Legion activity.

Two guards at the State prison at Jackson were summarily dismissed on evidence that they were members of the hooded order and seven others, named in documents seized, were examined before the grand jury. If evidence develops that they also are members, Warden Harry Jackson said, they will be summarily ousted, too. All denied any affiliation.

The guards dismissed were Ray Ernest, alleged to be a recently-made "brigadier general" in the band, and Dice Hawley. Ernest is being held on charges of carrying concealed weapons and was examined before the grand jury today in an effort to link him to the death of Paul Avery after a flogging administered by a masked mob. Hawley admitted membership, Warden Jackson said.

Jail Threat Faces Witnesses

The one-man grand jury, also known as a "John Doe" inquiry, was invoked by Prosecutor Dudley to circumvent the death threats by which the organization obtained secrecy from its members. Any witness who refused to answer questions would be jailed immediately under the power given in the proceeding, Mr. Dudley said.

As these steps in the Poole and Every inquiries went forward, the State police, with the cooperation of local authorities, pressed the effort to round up ranking officers of the Black Legion for questioning. It is sought to learn whether the cult is involved in any other vengeance murders and whether it is responsible for a series of beatings and floggings in the State.

As a development of this round-up two more employes of the city of Detroit were in custody tonight.

Arthur Lupp of the Highland

courtroom. Four were said to have confessed that they were involved in the Poole killing. They are Harvey Davis, a Black Legion "colonel," Dayton Dean(Ervin Lee and Urban Lipps. Davis and Dean are city employes, working for the Public Lighting Commission, the city-owned power system. Lee and Lipps are factory workers.

Called Killing Participants

Three others whom the prosecution charges were actual participants in the killing are George C. Johnson, Paul R. Edwards and Edgar Baldwin. Johnson is the elderly man now in the hospital.

Two of the others are being held as having reported to the society that action was needed against Poole. They are Hershel Gill and Lowell Rushing. They deny they marked thes lain youth for vengeance, asserting they only said that he had beaten his wife, who five days before had become a mother.

The four others were at the meeting before the killing, Mr. McCrea said. Like all others who were at the meeting, they are charged with murder.

Dean admitted this morning to Assistant Prosecutor John A. Ricca that the story to which all the men previously had adhered, that Poole was to have been taken out only for a beating, was untrue. He said, according to Mr. Ricca, that it was planned "to take him for a one-way ride and hang him."

This statement was borne out when John H. Bannerman picked up today after once being released, told of finding a rope three-quarters of an inch thick in a traveling bag Davis had given him before the meeting. He did not discover its contents until two days after the meeting, he said. Davis had told him the bag contained regalia.

The lynching party was in five cars, with the first seven defendants in two and Bannerman, with the bag, in the last three. A drawbridge separated the first two cars from the others.

Dean said Poole was shot because the rope was not at hand, according to the prosecutor.

Refuses to Enter Plea

J. P. M. Hally, a Catholic, who appeared as counsel for John B. Mitchell, refused to enter a plea for his client after the judge read the warrants. The warrants charged the defendants did "feloniously, wilfully and with malice aforethought kill and murder Charles Poole," and also that they did "inveigle and kidnap Poole, secretly conspiring to confine him in prison against his will."

"These are two separate and distinct complaints which are inconsistent," Mr. Hally declared.

"Then you are standing mute, you enter a mute plea?" Judge Liddy asked.

When the other counsel made the same reply, he ordered a plea of not guilty entered for all.

Halting prolonged legal wrangling, Judge Liddy said concerning Mitchell:

"If he is guilty as a co-conspirator, he is guilty of a serious crime. This is the most striking crime committeed in the State of Michigan for a quarter of a century. It is only evceeded as a reprehensible and heinous crime by the matter which has excited equal public interest in Tampa, Fla.

"Under these circumstances I shall not order that they be admitted to bail."

Judge Liddy set Wednesday morning for examination of the prisoners. That hearing will determine whether the men shall be bound over for the Circuit Court.

The establishment of the "Wolverine Republican Club," not affiliated with the regular Republican organization, and the planning of a Democratic club, was not the first venture by members of the organization into Detroit politics, it became known today. In the campaign in the Spring of 1935 a group admitting no affiliation, but circularizinb "white Protestants" by mimeographed letter, held mass meetings in Highland Park at which it distributed a list of the candidates, with their religious and racial affiliation listed according as it was Catholic, Protestant, Jewish or Negro. The religion of the Negro candidates was not given.

McCrea to Call Conference

In Pontiac, whhere former Police Chief George Eckhardt had contended that the organization had a large affiliation in the city employ, Prosecutor David Pence said tonight that no evidence in support of the charges had been discovered.

Mr. McCrea announced that he would invite all law-enforcement agencies in this county, including the Federal Department of Justice, to a conference to devise ways and means for suppressing the organization.

Park section, a city milk inspector who failed to report for work today after it had been made known that detectives of the homicide squad were seeking him, surrendered late today, his action coming after negotiations between his lawyer and Mr. McCrea. Lupp had been named by Mr. McCrea as one of the Detroit "brigade commanders" of the organization. He had been away from his home for the week end and was located at a cottage at Algonac. He has refused to deny or affirm a connection with the organization.

The other man being questioned is Wilbur Robinson, who also lives in Highland Park. He was taken into custody this morning. He is a machinist employed by the Detroit Street Railways, the municipally owned transit system, and is also one of the five "brigade commanders" in the State, according to detectives under inspector John I. Navarre, who located him.

No charges have been lodged against either of the men. The police and prosecution reiterated a belief that the higher officers were not involved in the Poole murder.

David H. Crowley, State Attorney General, declared that he would head a State investigation of the organization and Oscar Olander, Commissioner of the State police, sent Captain Ira H. Marmon, chief of State detectives, to Detroit early tonight to gather information for the investigation. Captain Marmon interviewed "under-cover" witnesses not yet openly drawn into the case.

New York N.Y.

It was understood that the State authorities have consulted the Governors of Indiana and Ohio on possible cooperation by agencies in those States. The two States, with Michigan, are in the "Western division" of the Black Legion and Ohio is believed to be the headquarters of the division and possibly national headquarters.

Alleged High Officer Found

V. F. Effinger of Lima, Ohio, described by Prosecutor McCrea as the "senior brigade commander" of the "Western division" of the organization and the receiver of 10 cents a month dues paid by each member for "organizational incidentals" apart from thecollections regularl y taken at meetings, was located today.

He was named in the correspondence seized in Ernest's home and the dues-payment system was disclosed in an elaborate system of receipts by which the dues, without "cuts," was passed on up to the "top" officers, who ran the society in dictatorial fashion.

The twelve men arraigned here were brought into court at 2 o'clock, which was the time limit for holding them without arraignment as set by Circuit Court Judge Adolph F. Marschner.

Judge Marschner had refused to grant writs of habeas corpus for the release of the defendants on the promise of Mr. McCrea that writs charging murder and kidnapping would be sworn out. The prosecution worked until early this morning drawing up the warrants. When the habeas corpus case was called at 11 o'clock, Judge Marschner dismissed the pleas on the ground that the warrants had been issued.

Handcuffed together, the twelve men were marched into the crowded

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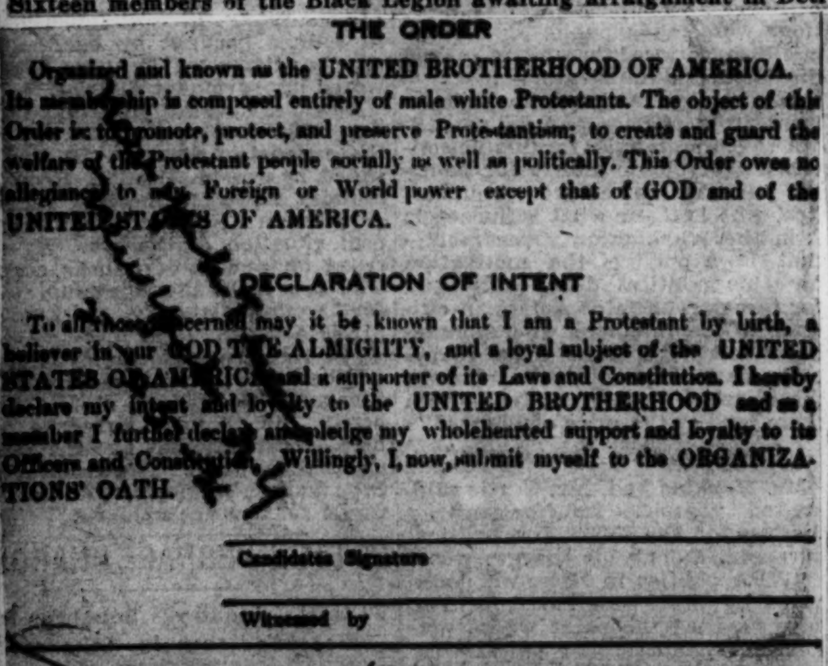
BLACK LEGION UNCOVERED IN RITUALISTIC SLAYING IN MICHIGAN

Sixteen members of the Black Legion awaiting arraignment in Detroit court. Nine are seated on the front bench, the remainder behind them.



THE ORDER

Organized and known as the UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF AMERICA. Its membership is composed entirely of male white Protestants. The object of this Order is to promote, protect, and preserve Protestantism; to create and guard the welfare of the Protestant people socially as well as politically. This Order owes no allegiance to any Foreign or World power except that of GOD and of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

DECLARATION OF INTENT

To all those concerned may it be known that I am a Protestant by birth, a believer in our GOD THE ALMIGHTY, and a loyal subject of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and a supporter of its Laws and Constitution. I hereby declare my intent and loyalty to the UNITED BROTHERHOOD and as a member I further declare and pledge my wholehearted support and loyalty to its Officers and Constitution. Willingly, I, now, submit myself to the ORGANIZATIONS' OATH.

Candidates Signature

Witnessed by

Application card signed by initiates of the order

All Night Rider Officers Hunted As Michigan Deaths Are Put at 50

State Police Head Orders a Round-Up as Seized Documents Designate Black Legion an 'Outlaw' Army and Lists Its 'Generals' of Varying Rank.

5-25-36
New York Times

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DETROIT, May 24.—A State-wide man hunt to arrest every ranking officer of the Black Legion, night-riding terror gang, was ordered at Lansing today by Captain Ira H. Marmon, head of the Michigan State Police.

Captain Marmon sent orders to every State police station as authorities here and at Jackson sought additional evidence to link the night riders with two deaths, one a known murder. Sixteen members of the legion are under arrest here and one is held at Jackson.

At the home of Ray Ernest, guard at the Jackson State Prison, documents were discovered today throwing more light on the activities of the society. Yesterday the police found in Ernest's home an arsenal and a leather whip.

Ernest, a "brigadier general" of the legion, in charge of thirteen counties, is held in a technical charge of carrying concealed weapons. He is suspected of complicity in the reported flogging death last April of Paul Avery, prison guard and Black Legion member.

Captain Marmon assigned Lieutenants Benjamin Loomis and Harold Mulbar to investigate any connection between the Black Legion and Avery's death and to seek evidence of any other terrorist attacks traced to the night riders. They were joined today by Harold Colburn, chief investigator for Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea of Wayne County (Detroit).

Mr. McCrea started the investigation of the legion after seven of its members had confessed the murder May 13 of Charles A. Poole, 32-year-old WPA worker.

"Colburn told me in a telephone call," said Mr. McCrea, "that he and the other policemen had already been able to corroborate some of the suspicious activities of the legion members."

The evidence uncovered at Jackson caused Captain Marmon to order the arrest of every legion member above the rank of captain. The organization appeared to be based on a military scheme, with every army rank.

Commander-in-chief of the society, according to documents found in Ernest's home, is William Sheppard, who lives either in West Virginia or Ohio. A man identified as F. H. Effinger, address unknown, by virtue of his rank as a "four-star general" commands the Western division of the legion.

The Ernest papers stated that the Black Legion was a guerilla "army," fighting as outlaws and working in politics against both the Republican and Democratic parties.

According to Prosecutor Owen Hudley of Jackson County, "the papers at the Ernest home also showed that if a legion member ever divulged secrets of the order he would be visited with a fearful punishment by the 'D. K.,' said punishment known as 'Q.'"

"We don't know what these cryptic symbols mean," Mr. Hudley added.

"Any of this legion bunch who had occasion to lie to a public officer received a commendation for merit, the more lies the higher his rating. This thing is really almost unbelievable."

Avery Flogged, Widow Says

To Mr. Hudley, Avery's widow, Maida, and her son, Ralph, 20, supplied additional details of his death. They first told of Avery being abducted from home by a gang of masked men who carried him to a farm house and flogged him with a leather thong. He died several weeks later, on April 14.

"The night after he died Ernest and the rest of the mob came to our home during the wake and insisted on performing some kind of a black ritual," Mrs. Avery said. "I refused and they threatened to return at midnight, but they did not."

Both Avery and Poole, who was not a member of the legion, were Catholics. The legion decreed that each member should fight for white Protestants and bear arms against Jews, Communists, Catholics and Negroes.

By The Associated Press.

DETROIT, May 24.—The round-up of "night riders" of the hooded Black Legion spread today as officials directed their inquiry to reports that a membership totaling 135,000 in Michigan alone may be responsible for fifty deaths.

Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea said here that the prosecution in the "execution" of Charles A. Poole would include as many as may be identified of about fifty persons at a Black Legion meeting from which Poole was taken to his death.

State Police Captain Ira H. Marmon, whose troopers have been investigating the secret vigilantes for

Seven of the sixteen prisoners held here will be named tomorrow in murder warrants, Mr. McCrea said. The others, he added, probably will be charged either with being accessories to murder or with conspiracy.

A third death, that of Jerome Carfield Wolfe, an oil prospector of Marion, Mich., also is being investigated, although authorities said there was little evidence as yet to connect it with the Black Legion.

Wolfe was found dead on a lonely road near Napoleon, Mich., hotbed of night riders, late in 1933. A postmorten showed that he died of a ruptured liver. A Catholic, he was known to have been on drinking parties with members of the legion.

months, said he was looking into a report that fifty Michigan men had been marked for death and that the Black Legion made its "executions" apepar to be suicides.

Harry Colburn½ investigator for the Wayne County Prosecutor's office, said he was informed that the Black Legion's membership in the State grew in three years to 135,000, divided into five brigades of sixteen regiments each; that each member carried a pistol, and that the organization "is much more dangerous than people think."

Claims in Black Legion literature seized by State police that it antedates the Ku Klux Klan and that the Klan was an offshoot from it were ridiculed by investigators, who said the claims were made to impress prospective members. At New York Hiram W. Evans, Imperial Wizard of the Klan, denied any connection with the legion and declared that the Klan had no affiliates and was firmly aligned on the side of law and order.

Ernest's Brothers Questioned

In Jackson County two brothers of Ray Ernest, Glen and Clarence, also were questioned today.

The prosecutor, Owen Dudley of Jackson County, and State Police Captain William Hansen are investigating the issuance of gun-carrying permits there. Mr. Dudley said that there has been a noticeable increase in the past two or three years.

Ray, Glen and Clarence Ernest all possessed such permits, but Ray's had expired. When they obtained them, they said the guns were for "personal protection and target practice."

Mrs. Maida Every, widow of Every, told Mr. Dudley her husband was flogged because he tried to withdraw from a secret organization headed by Ray Ernest.

Glen Ernest lives at Napoleon, Mich., named by Captain Marmon as Michigan headquarters of the Black Legion.

Captain Hansen said that documents seized along with ritual robes and hoods, pistols, a rifle, knives and a leather whip at Ray Ernest's home named the national commander-in-chief and the "major general" in charge of the Western division, "north of the Ohio." A letter identified A. F. Loupp of Highland Park, a Detroit suburb, as Michigan commander, the officer said.

Dite Hawley of Napoleon was named in another letter, State police said, as recipient of a commission as "brigadied general" in command of the order in thirteen Southern Michigan counties.

Hawley and Glen and Clarence Ernest were subpoenaed to testify at a John Doe inquiry before Justice Ernest J. Rogers tomorrow.

State police pressed their inquiry into the flogging of two young men at Tompkins Center, Jackson County, by a group which warned them not to "bother other men's wives."

BLACK LEGION OATH HAS PLEDGE TO KILL

Joiners Must Agree to Death and Horrible Tortures for Violating Obligations.

LOYALTY TO ORDER FIRST

Purpose Is 'to Tear Down and Despoil Our Enemies,' Says Chaplain's Lecture.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

JACKSON, Mich., May 25.—The oath of the Black Legion, which new members are said to have signed with their won blood after reciting the ritual at pistol point, was disclosed today by Owen Dudley, prosecutor of Jackson County.

State police found copies of the oath in their raid on the home of Ray Ernest, a guard at the State prison here. Ernest is held in connection with the death ~~of Paul Avery~~, a fellow-guard, whose death is alleged to have followed a scourging with whips.

The ritual follows:

"SCENE: WOODS OR BARRACKS"

"Colonel—'Captain of the Guard, assemble your companies and form a circle. Officer of the Day, see if all present have the password and are eligible to remain.'

"Colonel—'Adjutant, are there any recruits seeking admittance to this organization? If so, test their fitness by the usual preliminary questioning, and if they are fit, bind them to secrecy by oath.'

"Adjutant: 'I have your orders, Colonel.'

"PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS"

"1. Are you a native born, white, Protestant, Gentile, American citizen?

"2. Do you understand that the organization you are about to join is strictly secret and military in character?

"3. Are you willing to join an organization that is classed by our enemies as being an outlaw organization?

"PRELIMINARY OATH"

"I, (name) hereby on my sacred honor before these B. K. (Black Knights) do promise and swear that I will never reavel any part or portion whatsoever of the ceremonies I have already received, or that which is about to be communicated to me, or that in which I may be instructed, to a single person in the whole world, except that he be a well known member of this, I being absolutely certain that he is in good standing with his superior officers.

"I further promise and swear that should I fail in the requirements and test of this organization and be rejected, I will never reveal the name or identity of any one I may have recognized, nor a single word I have heard to a living person.

"If I should fail in the keeping of this, my oath, may the fearful punishment of the B. K. be meted out to me. This punishment is death.

"Adjutant to Captain of the Guard: 'I now turn these recruits over to you to be presented to the Colonel.'

"Captain of the Guard to the Colonel: 'I present these recruits to you for further interrogation. They have answered the preliminary questions satisfactomily. They have come well recommended by friends in this organization and have been bound by oath not to reveal anything that transpires here tonight, or the identity of any one they may recognize in case they are refused admittance in this organization.'

"QESTIONS BY)LONEL."

"1. What is your name?

"2. Where do you live?

"3. How old are you?

"4. Are you married or single?

"5. What is your occupation?

"6. Are you honestly a Protestant?

"7. What church do you believe in or attend?

"8. Do you believe in a Supreme Being, a future reward and punishment?

"9. Can you ride a horse, drive a car and shoot a rifle?

"10. Do you drink?

"Colonel: 'Attention B. K.' Come to the sign of the death head.

"What is the slogan of the N. R.? (Night Riders).

"U. D. (Until Death).

"U. T. S. O. T. G. (Under the star of the General)

"Questions by the Colonel."

"1. Will you accept for your roof the sky, your bed the earth and your reward death?

"2. To what secret societies do you now belong, or have belonged in the past?

"3. Will you put this organization above any to which you now belong, have belonged or ever hope to?

"THIS ORGANIZATION MUST FIRST

"4. To what political party do you belong?

"5. Would you be willing to forget your party and vote for the best man, regardless of what party he belongs to, if ordered to do so by your superior orricer in this organization?

"6. Are you willing to take an order and go to your death if necessary to carry it out?

"7. Do you believe in white supremacy, and that no Negro should have authority over a white man?

"8. Do you believe in the intermingling and intermarriage between the black and white races?

"9. Do you believe in restricted immigration and the deportation of all undesirable aliens?

"10. Do you believe in the separation of church and State?

"11. Would you oppose by ballot, and if necessary bearing arms, any attempt to place any portion of the public tax money in the hands of the Roman Catholic Church for use in their buildings and upkeep of their institutions?

"12. Will you do all in your power to place only white Protestant Americans in office?

"13. If it ever should become necessary to lie to protect a member of this organization would you do so if ordered to by your superir officer?

"14. Can you keep a secret?"

"TALK ON SECRECY AND THEN GIVE A FALSE PASSWORD."

"Colonel: 'Before passing you men I will consult my second in command.'

"Lieut. Colonel: 'Before answering I wish to subject the recruits to further questioning. Have I your permission?'

"Colonel: 'You have, sir.'

"QUESTIONS."

"Lieutenant colonel."

"1. After a term of service in this organization you may be required to perform some service on a higher plane than ordinary routine night riding. This would require a blood pact. Would you be willing to sign your name in your own blood?

"2. What is your attitude toward lynch law?

"3. Are you properly armed? Do you own a revolver, rifle or shotgun? If not, will you are yourself as soon as possible?"

"Lieutenant colonel to colonel: 'They have answered the questions satisfactorily, and if they are bound by the oath by which we are bound, they are acceptable to me.'

"Lecture."

"Chaplain: 'The purpose of war is to kill. God himself made it honorable in defense of principle, for, did he not cast Lucifer out of Heaven and relegate rebellious Angels to the shades of Hell. The love of life can be measured under two conditions. One is when our surroundings are happy and our attachments numerous. The other is when our liberties have been subjugated, peace destroyed and everything we hold dear torn from us, until we realize that contentment, love and hope have forever vanished. We fight that the former condition may be regained, and we fight because the latter condition leaves us no other occupation.

"You have already signified a desire to cast your fortunes with us. By doing so, remember that our purpose is to tear down, lay waste, despoil and kill our enemies. Mercy belongs to sycophants and emasculated soldiers. It has no place in a fighters' outfit. To us it is a vision repugnant to our obligations and practices. We recognize but one power to separate us in the hour of peril and to succor one another at all hazards. We have pledged ourselves most sacredly and are bound by ties much stronger than honor can impose."

"B O (BLACK OATH)

"In the name of God and the Devil, one to reward and the other to punish, and by the powers of light and darkness, good and evil, here under the black arch of Heaven's avenging symbol, I pledge and consecrate my heart, my brain, my body and my limbs, and swear by all the powers of Heaven and Hell, to devote my life to the obedience of my superiors, and that no danger or peril shall deter me from executing their orders; that I will exert every possible means in my power for the extermination of the anarchist, communist, the Roman hierarchy and their abettors. I swear that I will die fighting those whose serpent trail has winnowed the fair fields of our allies and sympathizers. I will show no mercy but strike with an avenging arm as long as breath remains.

"I further pledge my heart, my brain, my body and my limbs, never to betray a comrade; and that I will submit to all the tortures mankind can inflict, and suffer the most horrible death, rather than reveal a single word of this, my oath.

"Before violating a single clause or implied pledge of this, my obligation, I will pray to an avenging God and unmerciful Devil to tear my heart out and roast it over the flames of sulphur; that my head be split open and my brains scattered over the earth; that my body be ripped up, my bowels be torn out and fed to carrion birds; that each of my limbs be broken with stones and then cut off by inches that they may be food for the foulest birds of the air; and lastly, may my soul be given unto torment; that my body be submerged in molten metal and stifled in the flames of Hell; and that this punishment may be meted out to me through all eternity. In the name of God, our creator, Amen—Arise!"

A So-Called "History"

Included among the documents found was a "history" of the Black Legion, recounting the already published story, dating its foundation from Revolutionary days and stating that the thirteen officers of the present headquarters staff commemorates units in the thirteen Colonies.

The "history," however, gives the organization a direct link with the Ku Klux Klan, set forth as follows:

"After the Klan had accomplished its purpose of maintaining white supremacy and ridding the South of its carpet-baggers it was disbanded, but the Night Riders under General Forrest remained intact and were ordered to ride on forever.

"The officers of the organization wanted to amke General Forrest a patron saint on account of his efficiency as a fighting man, but he objected stating that there was a man more efficient than he, namely Quantrell. Then General Forrest requested all of his men to take the black oath of Quantrell. Our present leader in the North is a kinsman of one of the followers of Quantrell when he only had eight men. This kinsman's name is George Shepherd or "Shotgun Shepherd." Our leader was given command of all the forces north of the Mason Dixon Line.

"Up until about ten years ago membership in this organization was passed from father to son, but on account of the need for numbers our leader was permitted to enlist all native-born, white, Gentile, Protestant, known to be patriotic citizens."

Michigan.
6

5340

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Seven Night Riders Draw Life Terms

Advertiser

10-10-36

DETROIT, Oct. 9.—(AP)—Seven night-riders of the Black Legion received life terms in prison for murder today after "Col." Harvey Davis charged that Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea was a member of the secret order and that one of the trial jurors perjured himself.

McCrea said the charge was "a .... lie" and [illegible] Judge Joseph A. Moynihan proceeded with sentencing the men convicted of the roadside "execution" of Charles A. Poole last May 12.

"I'm not guilty of this crime," Davis told the judge. "I don't think I had a fair trial. Mr. McCrea here, the prosecutor who prosecuted this case, belongs to the Blank Legion. It was a perjured trial."

The prosecutor said that when running for office he was a "joiner" and may have signed a membership application unknowingly.

Dayton Dean, Black Legion triggerman who admitted firing the shots that killed Poole, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to a life term yesterday. He accused Davis of ordering Poole's death because of false gossip that the young WPA worker beat his wife, who was in the hospital at the time with a 5-day-old baby.

The judge sentenced Davis, Ervin Lee and Lowell Rushing to the northern branch prison at Marquette; Paul R. Edwards, John Bannerman and Edgar Baldwin to the southern Michigan prison, and Urban Lipps, 23, the youngest defendant, to the State reformatory at Ionia.

Black Legion Murderer Is Given Life Sentence

Advertiser

DETROIT, Oct. 8.—(AP)—Dayton Dean, stocky, talkative two-gun killer whose lurid disclosures of Black Legion terrorism aided the State's fight to stamp out the hooded nightriders, received a life term for murder today from a circuit judge who called Dean's victim "a martyr to the cause of civil and religious liberties."

Dean had pleaded guilty to shooting Charles A. Poole, young WPA worker, on a lonely country road last May 12 on order of a Black Legion superior officer after false gossip that Poole beat his wife, an expectant mother.

Seven other Black Legion members who were convicted of first degree murder for the Poole killing will receive mandatory life sentences tomorrow. Four convicted of second degree murder will be sentenced Saturday.

The prejudice against certain racial and religious groups, which the Black Legion was charged with borrowing from the Ku Klux Klan, was denounced today by Judge Joseph A. Moynihan who termed the killing of Poole "a sad commentary on our form of civilization."

BLACK LEGION CASE IMPRISONS 4 MORE

Times

Last of Eleven Men Convicted in Poole 'Execution' Are Sentenced at Detroit.

10-11-36

ALL DENY MURDER GUILT

New York

One of Group Gets 10 to 20 Years —Lightest Term, 3½ to 10 Years, Given to Man of 66.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DETROIT, Oct. 10.—Sentences ranging up to one of ten to twenty years were imposed by Circuit Judge Joseph A. Moynihan today on four more men, the last of the eleven convicted of the Black Legion "execution" of Charles A. Poole, whose death exposed the activities of the hooded organization.

The four were convicted of second-degree murder at the same time that seven others were found guilty of first-degree murder. The seven have been sentenced to life terms in prison.

The longest prison term today was given Thomas R. Craig, who was on probation after a conviction of fraud in a 1934 election recount trial. He was sentenced to a ten to twenty year term in the State prison of Southern Michigan.

The other three sentenced today were sent to the Detroit House of Correction. They were Virgil Morrow, who received a 5 to 15-year term; Albert Stevens, 7½ to 15 years, and John S. Vincent, 66, the oldest defendant of the entire group, 3½ to 10 years.

During a long plea for mercy, Vincent broke into sobs and grasped a desk for support. The judge told him that his age was being taken into consideration in giving him the lightest sentence of the four men. They all protested to the court that they were innocent of killing Poole.

After sentence had been pronounced yesterday on seven other Black Legion members, some of the defendants told the court that they had "not had a fair trial." And one, "Colonel" Harvey Davis, charged that Prosecutor Duncan McCrea "is a member of the Black Legion and it was a perjured trial."

In his charge of a "perjured" trial, Davis said that one of the members of the jury made a statement before the trial that "all the Black Legion bunch should be in jail."

Prosecutor McCrea vigorously denied Davis's accusations.

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Michigan

5341

eading Members and Victims of the 'Black Legion'

The "Black Legion" members are suspected in fifty mysterious deaths. State police said seized documents named Dite Hawley (upper left) as "brigadier general" of the Legion, and Ray Ernest (upper center) a state prison guard at Jackson, as a district leader. Mrs. Rebecca Poole (upper right) widow of the slain man, denied he beat her just before her infant daughter, Nancy Joan, was born. Legion members had claimed Poole was killed for beating her. Paul E. Every (lower-left) state prison guard at Jackson, died mysteriously April 14 and his widow, Mrs. Malda Every, and son Ralph (lower right) attribute his death to a flogging administered by a band of men. Associated Press photos.

FEDERAL AID ASKED ON 15-STATE INQUIRY INTO BLACK LEGION

New York Times

Detroit Prosecutor Wires Cummings of 'Numerous Complaints' Received.

New York, N.Y

FINDS INTERSTATE DEATHS

5-28-36

He Declares There Are Units in New York City and Chicago—Court Debate Sharp.

HOUSE ACTION IS SOUGHT

Dickstein Names Four Groups Besides the Night Riders in Bill for Investigation.

By WILL LISSNER

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DETROIT, May 27.—Declaring that he has received numerous complaints of Black Legion activities in more than fifteen States, including New York, as the result of his investigation into the secret terrorist society here, the Wayne County Prosecutor appealed today to Attorney General Cummings for Federal aid in uncovering the ramifications of the outlaw band.

The prosecutor, Duncan C. McRea, told Mr. Cummings in a telegram that he believed Federal laws had been violated.

A few hours later David H. Crowley, State Attorney General, went into court here and made the first move to start a one-man grand jury investigation in Detroit and Wayne County.

In his telegram to Attorney General Cummings, Mr. McCrea said:

"As prosecuting attorney, I have been making an investigation of the so-called Black Legion in Wayne County. Am receiving numerous complaints dealing with the activities of the organization in other States.

"Of course it is impossible for me to investigate these complaints. Believe Federal laws have been violated. I would appreciate it if you could assign some one from the Department of Justice to cooperate with me in completing the investigation of this organization."

Victims Taken Over State Lines

Explaining his action, Mr. McCrea declared that he had received reports from law-enforcement agencies and complaints by mail from private individuals in fifteen or eighteen States alleging that crimes had been committed by the Black Legion.

He said these charged that individuals were taken from "one State to another for the purpose of murder and intimidation"; he expressed "concern," since some of the victims "seem to have suffered very severely."

"These recent developments cause me to feel that I need help through other than the ordinary channels in the investigation of the Black Legion," the prosecutor added.

He explained that while he needed no further aid in getting to the bottom of the organizational set-up in Wayne County, he was powerless to go beyond the borders of the State. Two days ago he had vainly sounded out the Federal Bureau of Investigation through its agent here.

The complaints allege that the armed, semi-military organization has well defined units in New York City and other parts of that States, Chicago and elsewhere in Illinois.

The prosecutor's office hopes to obtain evidence on a kidnapping from Michigan which resulted in the murder of the victim. Where this occurred was not disclosed.

Gets Complaints From New York

Mr. McCrea said he had received "nothing definite" to indicate that the Black Legion was active in New York City, but had received several letters from there complaining of such activities.

He had received letters and reports from law enforcement authorities in New York State showing that the Legion was active there. He denied that the complaints mentioned kidnapping or lynching, but said they alleged crimes more serious than intimidation. He would not make public the material or the vicinity from which it came.

A petition asking a grand jury investigation into the activities of the Black Legion were because of the linking of the murder of Charles Poole, 22-year-old WPA worker, to the secret organization and because of assertions as to several mysterious deaths, was filed by the State Attorney General.

Coming from the capitol at Lansing Mr. Crowley laid the petition before Adolph F. Farschner, Circuit Court Judge, who previously had denied writs of habeas corpus on which liberty for several of the thirteen members of the terrorist band held in the Poole slaying had been sought.

Judge Marschner called a meeting of the whole circuit bench for tomorrow to determine whether the petition should be granted.

Mr. Crowley acted before conferring with Mr. McCrea, the county prosecutor, but he let it be known that he does not consider the appearance of a membership application card in the Hooded

order, bearing the prosecutor's name, warranted him to supersede Mr. McCrea in the Poole case.

He has the power to conduct the county grand jury investigation through his office, but would not indicate whether he intended to do so.

Court Examination Is Deferred.

The prosecutor went into Common Pleas Court today and obtained an

New York Times 5-28-36

adjournment of the examination of twelve of the thirteen Poole case prisoners and continuance of their commitment without bail after establishing only that the murder had been committed.

The adjournment permitted him to avoid at this time a test of the evidence linking the prisoners to the slaying, and gave him more time to prepare the case.

Meanwhile, in the drive of State, county and city authorities to bring economic pressure to bear against the fear which the organization has been able to inspire, four more city employes were detached from the payroll today.

An investigator in the County Prosecutor's office was questioned and cleared of connection with the organization; a secret investigation of policemen charged with membership was under way.

In Jackson, where the one-man grand jury investigation before E. J. Rogers, justice of the peace, has already resulted in the dismissal of three prison guards, State employes, and the suspension of another, subpoenas were issued for a score of witnesses in an effort to fix political responsibility for the success of the Black Legion in placing its members on the public payroll.

The adjournment of the examination of the twelve members of the night riders was obtained when Prosecutor McCrae explained to Judge Ralph W. Liddy that "in the next four or five days I expect to have others arrested in this case."

Warm Exchange in Court

J. P. M. Hally and other defense counsel fought the move, demanding that their clients be released in bail unless the examination to determine if the evidence is sufficient to bind the prisoners for trial, was conducted immediately.

"What McCrea says is 'Let's take a rest for a week and see what we can dig up,'" said Mr. Hally.

Bernard W. Cruse, another defense lawyer, argued that he had evidence to prove that one of his clients was working in a factory at the time of the murder.

Mr. McCrea declared that the lawyer was giving testimony without having been sworn and remarked, sarcastically:

"You appear to know so much about what went on, maybe we ought to question you to see if you were there."

Indignantly Mr. Cruse burst out: "Maybe if the investigation were continued, they might find another of your cards there. A grand jury investigation might well be kept busy right in your own office."

A ripple of handclapping from a knot of standees in the back of the courtroom was heard. Mr. Cruse's references were to the membership application card bearing the name of Mr. McCrea and to an investigation of the religious activities of Charles Spare, an investigator in the prosecutor's office.

Mr. McCrea has declared the signature on the card to be either a clever forgery or his own, obtained unwittingly in the heat of his last when he "joined up and signed anything."

Mr. Spare, he said today, admitted organizing an aggressive "Protestant" meeting in the last campaign and membership eleven years ago in the Ku Klux Klan. Mr. McRea cleared Mr. Spare of any connection with the Black Legion.

When the court room opened at 9:35 A. M., standees filled it in a moment, but it was more than an hour before the proceedings got under way. Kleig lights burned and motion-picture cameramen took pictures of the defendants, the court room crowd and the officials.

Seeks Social Sanctions

Judge Liddy explained in a statement that he was making every facility available to the press and the pictorial agencies because he believed that the mere prosecution of a few defendants was not enough to eliminate the tendency to organize against the interest of society.

Such a task could be accomplished, he said, solely by the strengthening of social sanctions built up by the agencies of communication.

At the outset of the examination Mr. Hally entered a general objection to the testimony and evidence, on the ground that the kidnapping and murder warrants joined in the same complaints were inconsistent and incompatible. Judge Liddy reserved decision.

The State witnesses were Owen Kent Rushing, brother of Lowell Rushing, one of the defendants; Owen's wife, Marcia, and the medical examiner.

The Rushings testified to having identified Poole's body. The medical examiner described the five gun shot wounds, all of which, he said, were fired from the same revolver. There was no cross-examination.

Harvey Davis, "colonel" of the Wolverine Republican Club "regiment," glowered at the court. Dayton Dean, said to have confessed to firing the shots, watched from deep-set eyes, following the proceedings closely.

Looking, on, apparently bewildered, were the other defendants, Ervin Lee, Urban Lipps, Paul R. Edwards, Edgar Baldwin, Rushing, John Bannerman, John B. Mitchell, Thomas R. Craig, Gershel Gill and John S. Vincent.

Judge Liddy, in adjourning the examination until next Tuesday, said he believed that the seriousness of the crime charged made it incumbent on him to grant the prosecutor time to prepare the case.

He granted a defense motion, however, to have physicians determine if the prisoners had been beaten by the police.

Signifying the high feeling aroused by the case was the withdrawal of one of the defense lawyers, who explained:

"I didn't know what I was getting into."

Judge Liddy said:

"The attorneys for these men should not receive any unfavorable comment, for they are doing their duty as officers of this court."

Fifty Mysterious Murders Traced To Black Legion

Round-Up Of Night Riders In Northern Secret Order Launched In Michigan

135,000 Initiates

Murder Warrants To Issue For Seven Members In Death Of WPA Worker

DETROIT, May 24.—(AP)—The roundup of "night riders" of the hooded black legion spread today as officials directed their inquiry to reports a membership totaling 135,000 in Michigan alone may be responsible for some 50 deaths.

In Detroit Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea said murder warrants would be issued Monday for seven men present at the "execution" of Charles A. Poole, young WPA worker, and said the prosecution would include as many as may be identified of some 50 persons present at a black legion meeting from which Poole, a non-member, was taken to his death.

Ray Ernest, guard at the Southern Michigan Prison, was held at Jackson for arraignment Monday on a charge of carrying concealed weapons after he denied connection with the reported flogging of Paul Every, also a prison guard who died April 14 of what physicians pronounced heart disease and diabetes.

Fifty Marked For Death

State Police Capt. Ira H. Marmon, whose troopers have been investigating the secret vigilantes for months, said he was investigating a report 50 Michigan men had been marked for death, and that the black legion made its "executions" appear suicidal.

Harry Colburn, investigator for the Wayne County prosecutor's office, said he was informed the black legion's membership in the State grew in three years to 135,000, divided into five brigades of 16 regiments each, that each member carried a pistol, and that the organization "is much more dangerous than people think."

Claims in black legion literature seized by State police that it antedates the Ku Klux Klan and that the klan was an offshoot from it were ridiculed by investigators who said the claims were made to impress prospective members. At New York, Hiram W. Evans, imperial wizard of the klan, indignantly denied any connection with the legion and said the klan had no affiliates and was firmly aligned on the side of law and order.

Hearing Today

Detroit police who seized 18 men after an investigation into the shooting of Poole on a lonely road near Dearborn, released three who said they did not attend the black legion meeting that preceded it. Hearing on habeas corpus writs for 15 others was set for Monday before Circuit Judge Adolph F. Marschner.

Prosecutor Owen Dudley, of Jackson County, said it was definitely established that the organization there was connected with the black legion, although Ray Ernest and his brothers, Glen and Clarence, who also were questioned today, denied any connection.

The prosecutor and State Police Capt. William Hansen are investigating the issuance of gun-carrying permits at Jackson. Dudley said there had been a noticeable increase the past two or three years.

Capt. Hansen revealed that documents seized along with ritual robes and hoods, pistols, a rifle; knives and a leather whip at Ray Ernest's home, named the national commander-in-chief of the black legion as a William Shepherd, living in Ohio or West Virginia, and the "major-general" in charge of the western division, "north of the Ohio," as V. A. Effinger. A letter identified A. F. Loupp, of Highland Park, a Detroit suburb, as Michigan commander, the officer said.

Brigadier General

Dite Hawley, of Napoleon, Mich., was named in another letter, State police said, as recipient of a commission as "brigadier general" in command of the order in 13 southern Michigan counties.

Hawley and Glen and Clarence Ernest were subpoenaed to testify at a John Doe inquiry before Justice Ernest J. Rogers Monday.

The papers seized in Ray Ernest's home referred to the secret organization as a "guerilla organization."

State police pressed their inquiry into two other recent incidents in Jackson county, the flogging of two young men at Tompkins center by a group which warned them not to "bother other men's wives," and the death of Jerome Garfield Wolfe, oil prospector from Marion, Mich., whose body was found late in 1933 on a roadside near Napoleon. A post mortem revealed a ruptured liver.

DEMANDS INQUIRY BY A HOUSE GROUP

Dickstein Bill to Study Aims and Revenue Sources of Black Legion Is Offered.

New York

NAMES 5 ORGANIZATIONS

5-28-36

Times

New Yorker Charges Bodies Here Supply Radical Literature to Aid in Michigan.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, May 27.—Charging that the Michigan Black Legion had been supplied with radical literature by several un-American organizations, Representative Dickstein, chairman of the House Immigration and Naturalization Committee, instruced today a resolution authorizing an investigation of all such groups by a seven-member committee to be appointed by the Senator.

He named, in addition to the Black Legion, the Black Shirts, the Christian party, the ABC Legion of New York and the Robert Edward Edmondson Economic Service, 80 Washington Street, New York City.

The resolution would authorize an investigation into the "extent, character, objectives and sources of revenue" of all the named organizations, an dthe aid of the Post-office Department and the Department of Justice would be made available to the committee.

House leaders said privately that they believed the resolution would "get nowhere." Mr. Dickstein said he would request early action.

In his office Mr. Dickstein displayed anti-administration circulars purporting to be sent out by the Edmondson service, some of which had been distributed about the Capitol. The circulars urged purchase of additional copies and warned that they would be sent only by sealed mail.

The ABC legion, Mr. Dickstein said, operated through Box 121, Grand Central Station, New York City, and he made public a letter from the postmaster showing that the box was rented to one C. Lewis Fowler, Cultural and Good Fellowship, of 551 Fifth Avenue.

According to the postal official explanation, the box was rented to the organization upon recommendation of L. Stewart Catten, 37 West Forty-third Street, and the Rev. Dr. George Coleb Moor, Madison Baptist Church, 30 East Thirty-first Street.

Mr. Dickstein privately showed copies of literature he said had been sent out by the Fowler organization, but declined to make it public at the time. The letter sought money with which to go into every Congressional and State district to elect favorable representatives.

Cummings Considers Request

By The Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, May 27.—Attorney General Cummings said today that he had "taken under consideration" the telegraphed request of Duncan C. McCrea, Detroit Prosecutor, that Federal forces join in a nation-wide investigation of the Black Legion.

A Justice Department spokesman said the Attorney General would probably reply to McCrea's request tomorrow, after consulting aides.

Mr. Cummings told reporters at his press conference before the McCrea telegram arrived that he knew of no Federal law being violated by the Black Legion activities. He went so far as to say that the government had "no jurisdiction whatever" in the Black Legion investigation in Michigan.

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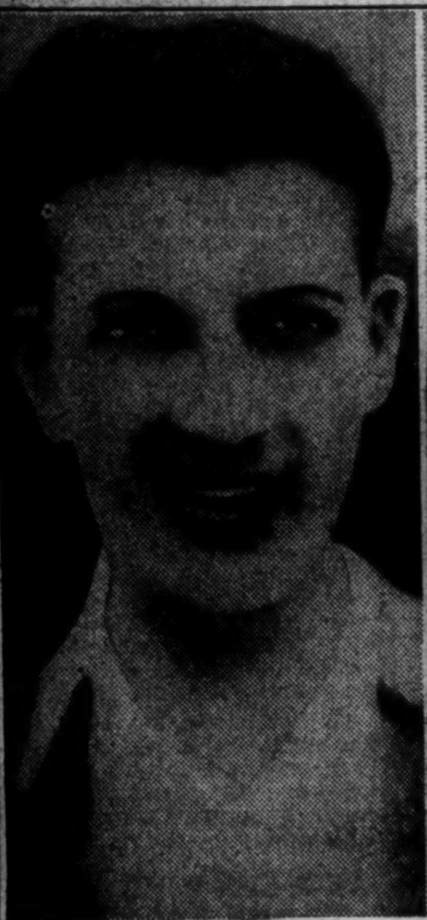
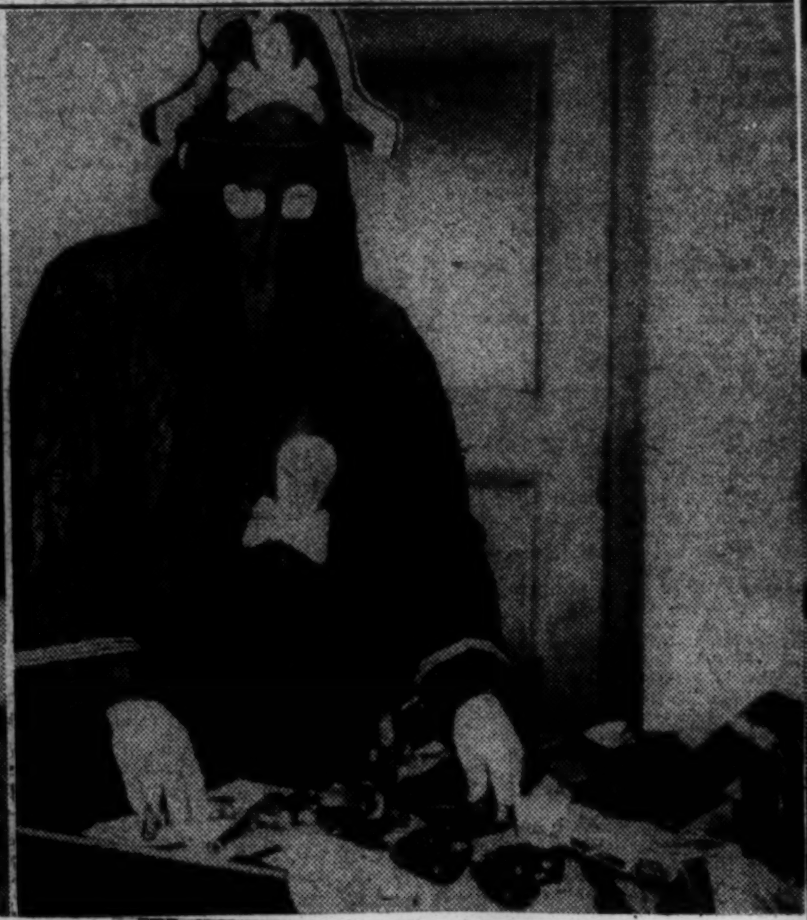
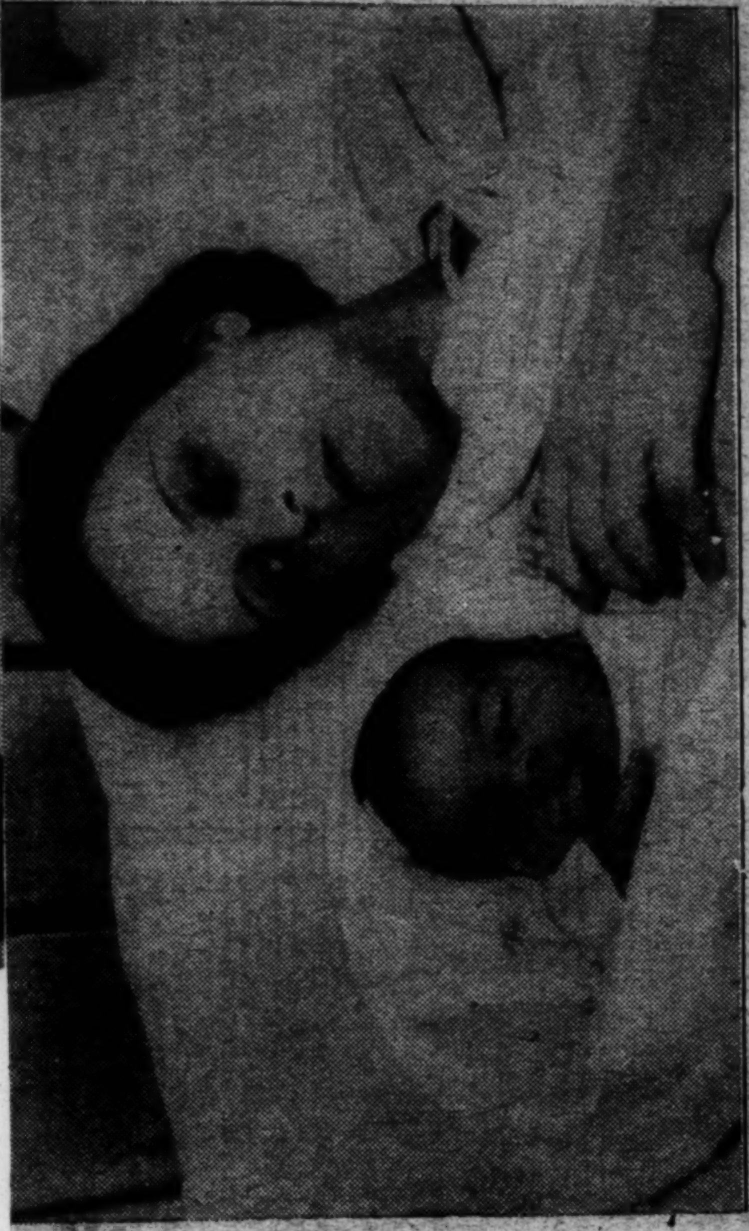
Michigan.

5342

Murder Starts Expose Of Black Legion







DETROIT police said they would charge seven members of the "black legion," secret society, with murder in connection with the "ritual execution" of Charles A. Poole (top left). Four of 16 members detained allegedly confessed participating in the slaying. They accused Poole of beating his wife, Mrs. Rebecca Poole, shown below with an infant born [illegible] days before the WPA worker was shot to death. A policeman (top right) dons the regalia of the "black legion" and examines weapons and ammunition seized. (Associated Press Photos)

THE BUZZARDS FLY IN MICHIGAN

Advertiser

One of the most unpleasant news stories of the year came out of Detroit yesterday. It was one of the most significant news stories that anybody has read in a year. It is depressing, disturbing, even though as yet the whole truth back of it is not known.

All that we know now is that State Police Captain Ira H. Marmon declares that the "Black Legion" of Michigan is "the strong-arm agency for the Ku Klux Klan," and that he is investigating the report that 50 citizens of Michigan have been marked for death by this secret vigilante organization. 5-25-36

Captain Marmon said that for months his troopers have been investigating this night-rider society, four of whose members have confessed to the slaying of Charles A. Poole, of Detroit.

We continue by quoting the dispatch from Detroit as printed in the Sunday morning papers:

The Black Legion's Michigan headquarters are at Napoleon, Capt. Marmon said, and there are units in [illegible], Hillsdale, Jackson and Detroit. Prospective members are asked if they will "take up arms against Jews, Negroes, and Catholics," he said.

"We are checking all unsolved murder cases and a number of questionable suicides in the state," he said, explaining that he had received a report that the Black Legion was responsible for a number of deaths which had been made to appear suicidal.

Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea, rejecting as "too fantastic" the explanation in the four confessions that Poole was killed because he had beaten his wife, began an investigation of the possibility the young WPA worker was "executed" because he knew too much of the inner workings of the hooded order.

Reports that scores of other citizens had been victims of mob terrorism poured into the prosecutor's office.

McCrea said he had received numerous telephone calls since the roundup Friday of 16 members of the Black Legion, from men who said they had been abducted and beaten by black-robed nightriders wearing the death's head insignia of the legion.

"All indications are that this is a powerful organization, and one report is that it has 10,000 members in Wayne (Detroit) County," McCrea said. "Our investigation will not stop until we get to the bottom of this."

McCrea said the confessions of four of the men that Poole, a young WPA worker, was put to death on May 13 on a little-traveled road because they believed he had beaten his wife were "too fantastic" to believe.

"We have not been told the real motive," he declared. "The men in custody say their lives are not worth a nickel if they talk too much, and those who have talked say they want to stay in jail for safety.

"There have been all kinds of wild rumors that the Black Legion has a huge membership throughout the country, that it is seeking political control, and that it is closely organized in every county in Michigan, but we haven't got any definite evidence on them," McCrea said.

Dr. Hiram W. Evans, the Big Gizzard of the Ku Klux Klan, indignantly repudiates the Black Shirts, saying that they are not connected in any way with his organization. He says he stands for law and order. We hope that he is at last right about that. There was a time, to The Advertiser's certain knowledge, when Evans didn't stand for anything so respectable as law and order.

If this Black Shirt gang in Michigan is as powerful as the first dispatch about it suggests, it is a serious menace to the peace and dignity of this country. Fortunately, its strength is concentrated in Michigan, a State that has plenty of courage and vitality. Michigan has an enlightened government and an enlightened newspaper press. Michigan is the kind of State that cannot tolerate such buzzards as make the Black Shirts what they are. Michigan is a decent, respectable State and The Advertiser believes that it will make short shrift of the Black Shirt buzzards.

The Advertiser extends its sympathy to Michigan, along with assurance of its confidence that Michigan knows what to do with its local buzzards, but The Advertiser hopes that these carrion-eaters are not likely to become strong in other States. The Advertiser, if the truth must be known, also is glad that the Black Shirts, while partial to Nordic, Protestant names, are not Southerners. We've had enough of the sort of scandals that Black Shirt men make—we feel relieved that a Yankee, Middle Western State must bear the burdent of disposing of such scoundrels and cowards.

We are looking forward hopefully to the indictment and conviction of large numbers of these buzzards, some of whom will be executed, many of whom will go to the penitentiary for long terms

DETROIT, MICH.
FREE PRESS

MAY 31 1936

Two Confess Being in Cult's Lynch Parade

Morrow Breaks as Companion Tells of Death Ride

Black Legion's Part in Politics Is Probed

Two more men admitted Saturday, according to Inspector John I. Navarre of the Homicide Squad, that they were at the Black Legion meeting at which the murder of Charles A. Poole was plotted and that they started out to the scene of the crime but never got there.

The new confessions came from Virgil Morrow, 29 years old, of 990 Merrick Ave., and Albert Stevens, 32, of 5214 Lincoln Ave.

Morrow was taken into custody Friday night and held out under strenuous questioning for more than 20 hours. At 3 p. m. Saturday, Stevens was brought in and a few moments later police had his confession that he rode in one of the cars that started away from the Findlater Temple meeting, but was cut off from the others by a raised drawbridge.

"Morrow drove the car I was in," Stevens was quoted as saying.

Confronted with this story, Morrow broke down and admitted his part.

Morrow Tells His Story

"I drove with the others as far as the bridge," Morrow said, according to Inspector Navarre. "When we got separated, I went to Oakwood and Dix. Some of the others were there, but we saw that we'd made a mistake, so we went over to Dix and Miller. We waited around there for a while and then we decided we were lost for good and went home."

This brings the number of men definitely placed at the meeting to 15. The other 13 have been charged by name with abducting and kidnaping Poole, and Miller and Morrow are included in the 12 John Doe warrants obtained by the Prosecutor.

Neither Morrow nor Stevens would admit, however, that the intention of the Findlater Temple gathering was to kill Poole.

Twelve of those named in the warrants will be examined Tuesday before Common Pleas Judge Ralph W. Liddy. A thirteenth is in Receiving Hospital with nervous indigestion and will be arraigned later.

Political Activities Bared

Two new instances of Black Legion attempts to control politics in Detroit were disclosed by Attorney General David H. Crowley on the eve of his one-man grand jury investigation of the terrorists.

Crowley revealed that among the reports he will investigate are:

1—That two Detroit judges attended a Black Legion meeting and that one took the oath and the other left when asked to do so. The story came from a man who attended the meeting, Crowley said. The Attorney General would not reveal the names of any of the principals.

2—That a prominent Wayne County politician, in a dispute with Mayor Frank Couzens, attempted to intimidate the Mayor by flipping a bullet in his hands, the Black Legion men's method of making themselves known as members of the cult and frightening their enemies.

Crowley announced that he would have an assistant intervene in the Jackson inquiry and that he was sending another assistant into Genesee County to aid there.

The Attorney General believes that he will be able to prosecute Black Legion members who forced candidates to join and also candidates who joined willingly. He expects to invoke assault and kidnaping laws against those who forced others to join and conspiracy laws on the basis of the oath they took against those who joined willingly.

Will Confer on Probe

He will complete plans for a second grand jury investigation of the hooded terrorists at a meeting Monday with Circuit Judge James E. Chenot, who will conduct the one-man grand jury.

Crowley contemplates a thorough investigation of Black Legion activities in Wayne County and at the same time expects to call as witnesses citizens of the Metropolitan Area outside the County.

Crowley will also intervene in the prosecution of those charged with Poole's murder, he decided Friday, and will meet Monday with Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea to discuss the case. As chief law enforcement officer of the State, he has instructed McCrea to make available to him, all the evidence the prosecutor now has on the Black Legion.

Other developments in Detroit Saturday included the denial of Arthur F. Lupp, local organizer of the terrorists, that he sold Dayton Dean, trigger man, the gun with which Poole was killed.

Police Hunt Members

The Police Department continued its investigation of persons named as members of the Black Legion. Inspector John A. Hoffman said that he had received the names of 500 persons supposed to belong to the organization and that he was sure at least 150 of them were on the rolls.

Chief of Detectives Henry W. Piel said that eight members of the Police Department are under investigation on suspicion of being Black Legion members. He said he would not reveal their names until they were proved to belong to the society.

One of those named as a member several days ago, Detective Loren Kingsland, emphatically denied any connection and has been cleared by Piel. Kingsland said he never heard of the organization until he read about it in the press.

Negro War Veteran Slain for a 'Thrill' By Black Klansmen

Legion's Triggerman Says Negro Was Shot for Fun

(United Press)

DETROIT, July 21.—Dayton Dean, confessed triggerman for the Black Legion, asserted today that a Negro World War veteran was taken out and shot to thrill six Black Legion members. It was the second killing blamed on the vigilante organization by Dean.

The slain man was Silas Coleman, 42, who was shot on the night of May 25, 1935, according to Dean.

Dean told police that Coleman was shot because "Colonel" Harvey Davis, now held on a murder charge in connection with the slaying of Charles Poole, 32, WPA worker, wanted "to see how it felt to shoot a Negro."

Dean named six men, including himself, as being present at the shooting. Three of them besides Dean already are in custody, charged with the murder of Poole. They are: Davis, Ervin Lee, and John Bannerman. Two others are sought: James Roy Lorrance and Charles Rouse.

Seek Kidnap Warrants

Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea announced he would recommend that warrants charging kidnapping be issued against the men in Wayne County. The actual shooting, according to Dean, occurred in Livingston County.

Dean told McCrea that a party of four Black Legion members and their wives were spending a week-end at Rush Lake, when they decided to kill the Negro. Dean said, "It didn't matter who the Negro was, just so he was colored."

Coleman was then lured to a lonely spot near Pinckney, Mich., on the pretext he was going to collect some back wages, and shot to furnish "excitement" for the Black Legion party.

Dean was asked why he hadn't said anything about the second Black Legion murder prior to this.

"Pretty Busy"

"Well," Dean said, "I've been pretty busy, and have had too much on my mind."

Dean said the wives of the cult members were not present at the shooting in the lonely swamp land, but waited for their husbands to return after taking the Negro to his death.

Dean said it was Rouse who had located the Negro.

"Charlie said he had just the right man," Dean's statement to McCrea said.

Dean said it was arranged that Coleman was to meet him and Rouse and then they were to take the Negro out to the lake where the other four men were staying over the week-end.

Killers at Party

"We went to the cottage," Dean said, "and I went in the backdoor and there was Harvey Davis and his wife; John Bannerman and his wife; Ervin Lee and his wife, and Roy Lorrance and his wife, sitting at a table having a party, drinking beer and liquor."

Dean said he told Davis that Rouse had a Negro in the car outside. Then, according to Dean's statement, Davis called the others and told them to bring their guns and "see that they are loaded."

The six men drove in two cars

Daily Worker
7-22-36
Page 1

Sets $226,000 Bail on Strikers

Strikers Vote to End Strike and Return to Work Today

(By United Press)

CAMDEN, N. J., July 21.—Striking employes of the Camden plant of the Radio Corporation of America, voted at a mass meeting late today to end their walkout and return to work tomorrow.

The strike, frequently marked by bloody fighting, has been in progress for several weeks.

CAMDEN, N. J., July 21.—Thirty-five striking workers of the RCA-Victor Manufacturing Company plant here were held in total bail of $226,000 today by Camden County Judge Frank Neutz.

Three of the strikers, arrested at the plant last Thursday and Friday, were held in $15,000 bail each; six under $10,000, and twenty-three under $5,000. All were charged with inciting to riot and participation in strike disorders.

Two others were held under $2,500 bail and one under $1,000. Fifty-six strikers were dismissed, two suspended and nine held for police court tomorrow.

Arthur Heimbacker, Camden WPA worker, James Murphy and Walte

Lynchings - 1936
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Mississippi.

5343

OFFER REWARD FOR CLUES IN BOY LYNCHING

Case

Mississippi Sheriff Tries to Solve Hanging of Youth, 17

12-18-36

LAUREL, Miss.— (ANS)—Contrary to the usual indifference to the lynching of Negroes, Sheriff Charles H. Thompson, is conducting an investigation of the mysterious hanging of 17-year-old I. B. Grant whose body was found strung from the neck under a small foot walk near the Southern Railway tracks Saturday morning, December 5.

Not only is Sheriff Thompson pushing an investigation, but he has offered a reward of $100 to anyone furnishing a clue or information leading to the arrest of any person or persons guilty of the slaying of young Grant.

The sheriff said that he and Chief of Police J. E. Brown are working hard on the case and will leave nothing undone in their efforts to track down the murderer.

Young Grant was last seen Friday night, December 4, when he left the Rose Arbor Tourist camp where he was employed, to see a show, according to his employer, A. J. Carter Jr.

Police believe he was hanged under the foot walk in an effort to cause the death to look like suicide.

Lynchings-1936

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

North Carolina

5344

Charlotte, N. C., News
May 21, 1936

Accuse Deputies Of Aiding In Lynching Of Negro

New Orleans, May 21.—(AP)—Two sheriff's deputies stood accused today of aiding in the lynching of a negro at Labadieville, La., October 11, 1932.

New witnesses were called today in the $10,000 damage suit brought by the parents of Fred Moore, negro, against Sheriff Lezin H. Himel and his bondsmen.

Moore's parents charged that it was through Himel's neglect that the negro was lynched after his arrest for the killing of a white girl.

Ivor Leblanc and Norman Thibodaux, negroes, testified two Himel deputies, Fernand Richard and Abel Landry, aided in the lynching.

Thibodaux said the mob would have lynched him also "if some white had not asked them to let me go because I talked like I was innocent."

Deputy Sheriff Richard denied the negroes' charges from the witness stand. Landry was scheduled to testify today.

Lynchings-1936

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Pennsylvania

5345

NEW YORK, N. Y.
EVENING POST

JUL 15 1936

UDGE FACES TRIAL AS PRO-LYNCHER

Pennsylvania Jurist's Impeachment Sought in Legislature by 2 Negro Members

Special Dispatch to New York Post

HARRISBURG, Pa., July 15.—A petition asking that impeachment proceedings be brought against Judge Benjamin C. Atlee of the Lancaster County Court will be considered today by the House Judiciary General Committee.

Filed by Representatives Marshall L. Shepard and Homer S. Brown, Negro members of the House from Philadelphia, the petition cites the jurist's reputed pro-lynching remarks from the bench last week in sentencing a defendant.

The judge denounced the convicted man at great length until some one informed him the Negro was stone deaf.

To Probe Judge's Conduct

The House committee is asked to investigate Judge Atlee's conduct to determine whether he was guilty of an impeachable offense and report its conclusions.

If it finds there is ground for action, impeachment proceedings will be instituted by the House, in the role of prosecutor, and it will appoint counsel to act for it. Under the Constitution the Senate would act as judge and jury, two-thirds of those voting being required to convict.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and National Negro Conference have sent protests to House members against the judge's conduct.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel
July 22, 1936

DID JUDGE USE WORD 'LYNCH'?

Impeachable Offense

Harrisburg, Pa. (AP). — Witnesses failed to agree at a house hearing whether Judge B. C. Atlee, of Lancaster, used the word "lynch" in sentencing a Negro prisoner.

The hearing was conducted by a subcommittee investigating charges of two members of the house of representatives that the veteran jurist was guilty of an impeachable offense.

Sumner V. Hosterman, former district attorney, testified Judge Atlee said substantially: "Had they lynched you they would have been justified." He added however, "I am satisfied from the depths of my heart that he does not approve of lynching."

District Attorney Harold W. Eaby denied the court used the word "lynch."

Emanuel Jones, Lancaster Negro, testified the judge told the prisoner:

"If you were on the other side of the Mason-Dixon line we wouldn't have you to bother with." Jones said he was in court as a "prosecutor."

Jones asserted Judge Atlee sentenced Samuel Watson to two and one-half to five years in solitary confinement in the Eastern penitentiary after the Negro pleaded guilty to a statutory crime involving minors.

Jones' testimony was corroborated by his wife.

Howard Gray, of Lancaster, declared he "didn't hear the judge say anything about lynching," and that he "didn't hear all the judge said."

Lynchings-1936
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Tennessee

5346

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
April 17, 1936

Justice Triumphs Mildly

THERE is certainly nothing remarkable about the jail sentence given four brothers and their cousins in Charlotte, Cheatham County, yesterday. The five had lynched a Negro who had been accused of insulting a white woman. They were tried, however, on charges of "assault."

The group took Baxter Bell, the Negro, from Dickson County officers last November. The Negro was found shot to death just over the Cheatham County line. The brothers, Luther, Clyde and James Dotson and their cousin, Allie Brown, were tried for the killing, but acquitted, and the jury was excloriated by an angry judge.

The five were then tried for assault. The brothers were sentenced to eleven months and twenty-nine days in jail and fined $50. The cousin was fined $50. It cannot be said that Justice will feel loudly triumphant over such sentences, but at least the five did not go scot free.

As Dr. Johnson said when he saw a dog walking on its hind legs: "There is nothing remarkable about it, but you are surprised to see the dog doing it at all."

Nashville, Tenn. Tennessean—M'ng
June 23, 1936

RECAPTURE BARES LYNCHERS' ESCAPE

Jimmy and Jesse Dotson Fled From Dickson Jail May 15.

Jimmy and Jesse Dotson, two of three convicted defendants in the Cheatham County lynching of Baxter Bell, negro, last November, were in custody of federal revenue officers today after more than a month of freedom.

The Dotson brothers, with their cousin, Ollie Brown, sawed their way out of the Dickson County jail May 15.

This morning Charles Love, agent in the alcoholic tax division of the internal revenue department, with three possemen raided a still in Cheatham County near the Dickson County line.

Two men arrested at the still proved to be the missing Dotson brothers. Jesse submitted to arrest without resistance; Jimmy was chased up a creek until he slipped in the mud, fell and was caught.

They are to be arraigned before Commissioner Lee Brock on charges of owning and operating a still. They said they intended their escape to be "only temporary." They didn't see why they should remain in jail pending outcome of their appeal to the Supreme Court when their brothers, Luther and Clyde, involved in the lynching, are free on bond.

The four Dotson brothers and Brown on November 4 surrounded an automobile of Dickson County officers who were taking Bell to the Cheatham County jail for trial on charges of assault and battery on Mrs. Luther Dotson the night of November 3 in a Cheatham County beer parlor. The negro was shot and killed with a gun taken from one of the officers.

The five were subsequently tried and convicted of the lynching and sentenced to jail terms. Jimmy and Jesse were given two terms each of eleven months and twenty-nine days.

Brown, who escaped with his cousins May 15, has not been apprehended.

Lynchings - 1936
Legislation Relating to.

5400

Charlotte, N. C., News
December 10, 1936

Anti - Lynching Legislation Is To Be Sought

Senate Republican Leaders Plan Move To Recapture Potent Negro Vote Of North.

Washington, Dec. 10.—(AP)—A determined drive to obtain anti-lynching legislation at the next congress was planned today by senate republican leaders in a move to recapture the potent negro vote of the north.

Disturbed by evidence of wholesale desertions by negro voters in the last election, the republicans seized on the anti-lynching move as the most likely to regain for the party the strength it once held with the negro race.

Ordinarily, a party with less than a score of votes in the senate would have little voice in shaping legislation. In the coming congress, however, the administration will face a half dozen vital deadlines which would make obstructive tactics particularly embarrassing.

The republicans could delay action and perhaps force an agreement to consider anti-lynching legislation.

The first deadline is likely to involve an appropriation for relief. With the $1,425,000,000 appropriated last year almost gone, the administration must get new funds by the end of January or thousands of families dependant on work relief help will go hungry.

Another will come with expiration of President Roosevelt's monetary powers at the end of January. Operation of the $2,000,000,000 stabilization fund, a fundamental part of the new monetary understanding with Great Britain and France, wil end at that time unless congress votes new authority.

Many other "deadlines" will occur later, including expiration of the tariff law, the RFC, the public works administration, and many other powers created under emergency legislation.

Many times anti-lynching bills have been blocked in the senate by obstructive tactics of southern senators. These senators might be helpless if the republicans should demand an agreement for a vote on an anti-lynching bill in exchange for assurance that the senate would be permitted to vote on a much needed administration measure.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
December 11, 1936

Political Anti-Lynching Move.

Word from Washington is that a determined drive to obtain anti-lynching legislation by the next Congress is planned by Senate Republican leaders in a move to recapture the potent Negro vote of the North. Disturbed by evidence of wholesale desertions by Negro voters in the last election, it is said, the Republicans have seized on the anti-lynching move as the most likely to regain for the party the strength it once held with the Negro race.

Now, there will not be enough Republicans in the next Congress to influence legislation. They will be in a hopeless minority and can make their presence felt only by adopting obstructive tactics. This, according to Washington reports, is what they plan to do. The Administration will be confronted by a number of vital deadlines, including the relief program, expiration of the President's monetary powers, operation of the $2,000,000,000 stabilization fund, and expiration of the reciprocal tariff law, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and the Public Works Administration.

The Republicans could, by resorting to obstructionist methods, delay action on important legislation and perhaps force an agreement to consider an anti-lynching bill. They may undertake to do that, but it is to be doubted that such a course would serve the intended purpose. The Negro has discovered that the Republican Party has been fooling him ever since the War Between the States. That party has posed as the party that freed the slaves and has expected the colored people to show their gratitude for the emancipation of their race by continuing to vote the Republican ticket for all time. And for a generation or more they did vote that ticket almost solidly. But the Negro, finally realizing that the Republican Party was doing nothing for him, that it only wanted his vote, has been becoming more and more independent for a quarter of a century.

The Republicans have been in control of Congress and of the Administration by far the greater part of the time since lynching became a problem, but they have not passed an anti-lynching law. Anti-lynching bills have been before Congress, they have been blocked by obstructive tactics of Southern Senators, but with enough Republican support such a bill could have been enacted long ago. Many Republicans have not favored anti-lynching legislation, and Southern Senators have opposed it not because they favor lynching but because, they contend, a Federal anti-lynching law would encroach upon State rights. There are Republicans who share that view.

As for the Negro, he knows that the Democratic Party is as much opposed to lynching as the Republican Party ,and that public sentiment in the South as well as in other sections condemns lynching. Lynching is a crime which a law-abiding public, regardless of section or of politics, demands shall be suppressed. Happily, it is on the decline and there is reason to believe that eventually it will be wiped out It is not likely that the colored people, North or South, will be impressed with the interest which Republican Senators now are manifesting in anti-lynching legislation for politica purposes.

New Orleans, La., Tribune
December 25, 1936

Lynching Law

WE HEAR Congress expects to stage another rumpus over an anti-lynching bill. Opposition to such legislation may be able to block it again. Perhaps it should be blocked—we are still open to persuasion on this issue. But deeply as we deplore most Congressional debate which puts nothing tangible through the mill, wrangling about lynching may not be a waste of time. Every debate on this subject in the national forum strengthens national feeling against lynching.

That puts responsibility in the matter squarely up to state and local authority in the territory which opposes Federal anti-lynch law. The issue always has been simple and still is. Either local authority must stop lynching or onfess its impotence and make way for Federal action. Thus far the states have refused to accept the responsibility and opposed acceptance of it by the central government. That dog-in-the-manger position can't be held indefinitely.

Lynchings-1936
Legislation Relating to.

5402

BURLINGTON, N. C.
TIMES NEWS

APR 24 1936

ANTI-LYNCHING TO BACKGROUND AGAIN

IT APPEARS that the Wagner-Costigan measure to stop lynchings, which experienced a rocky and futile course toward enactment at the previous session of Congress, is once again being innocuously pigeon-holed—while all the while the South (or at least certain bestial-minded and depraved spirits of the South) watches its Negroes with sadistically gleaming eyes, waiting a chance—just any old excuse—to take up the old hideous recreation once more.

And why wasn't the anti-lynching measure enacted? Because of the potent opposition of Southern senators, who took refuge in the hackneyed alibi of state's rights to thwart a humanitarian and eminently just move designed to punish those counties and states in which lynchings occur. It is automatically a very direct reflection on the South—on its guilty conscious as relates to lynchings—that it was the solons of this hot-headed corner of the nation which blocked passage of the measure, and which are giving every indication of blocking its passage again.

There can be little excuse for their enmity toward the bill. Of the Southern states, it is understood that only one commonwealth so far has had the nerve to legislate a state bill similar to the Wagner-Costigan bill—and that state, South Carolina, experienced an immediate decline in the merry pastime of stringing up Negroes. Which proves undeniably that mob "passions" can be curtailed, and that the fear of the law (when it is mandatorily enforced) permeates even the brains of lust-maddened atavists who compose a mob.

No, lynching is, no matter how much we hate to admit it, essentially a peculiarly Southern offense. There are examples of fatal mob violence in other sections, of course—notably in California, Missouri and Indiana. But that is no alibi for Dixie. The terms "lynching" and "South" have become synonymous in the popular imagination.

It is to our shame that we admit our guilt. But it is also to the shame of our senators that they have not the courage to defy what they fear as the prejudices of a certain Southern public opinion—and to lend their united support toward the enactment of the anti-lynching measure immediately.

So long as these senators side-step and evade the issue, and work themselves into a lather over "state's rights" to the denial of all that is humanitarian and civilized and honorable, then they are bound to lose whatever caste they may boast as liberals or champions of the people's welfare.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
WORLD-TELEGRAM

MAY 1 - 1936

LYNCHING INQUIRY PUSHED BY VAN NUYS

Cites Recent Slaying of Negro as New Argument.

By Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance.

WASHINGTON, May 1.—The recent lynching of Lint Shaw, Georgia Negro, was cited by Senator Van Nuys (D., Ind.), today as a new argument for passage of his resolution to appropriate $7,500 for a Senate investigation of lynching.

Senator Van Nuys, who piloted the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill through the Judiciary Committee, introduced the resolution to give the bill impetus for passage after it was stalled by a threat of filibuster by Southern Senators.

The Van Nuys resolution is now in the Audit and Control Committee, of which Senator Byrnes (D., S. C.), is chairman.

"The lynching of this Negro again proves that States are incapable of handling the lynching problem," Senator Van Nuys said.

"I intend to bring this to Senator Byrnes' attention. The Costigan-Wagner bill will pass eventually. We should pass it right now."

The bill makes lynching a federal crime.

N. Y. EVENING POST

APR 30 1936

ANTI-LYNCH BILL URGED

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People made public today a telegram to President Roosevelt urging the Administration to bring anti-lynching legislation before Congress.

ANTI-LYNCH MEASURE POSTPONED BY SENATE

Constitution

Copeland Fails in Efforts To Bring Bill To Vote.

5-13-36

WASHINGTON, May 12.—(AP)—The administration leadership in the senate decided today the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill could not be taken up at this session of congress.

Atlanta, Ga.

The efforts of Senator Copeland, democrat, New York, to bring the measure up for consideration was met with the reply from Majority Leader Robinson, of Arkansas, that the bill had been discussed a "great many days" last session and "I am satisfied it will not be practicable to take it up again at the present session."

Copeland said he believed the bill ought to be voted upon by the senate "regardless of its fate." He said he had been receiving "insistent demands that something be done on the bill."

"Regardless of how I feel personally," Copeland said, "I believe it is only right that before the end of this session there should be an opportunity to vote on a measure as important as this."

The suggestion of Senator Lewis, democrat, Illinois, that a special time be set for consideration of the bill, brought a "no" from Senator Smith, democrat, South Carolina, who was a leader in a filibuster against the measure last session.

Robinson then joined Senator McKellar, democrat, Tennessee, and King, democrat, Utah, in their motion that the measure be passed over.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
May 2, 1936

The Answer to Wagner-Costigan

Were accused lynchers tried in federal instead of state courts the trial juries would be drawn from the federal district, not from the county of the lynching. Thus presumably the jury would be free from local influences. That would be the only substantial advance toward the suppression of lynching that the Wagner-Costigan bill could effect were it enacted. When national prohibition was the law moonshiners and bootleggers could hardly be convicted in "wet" counties of South Carolina but on the same evidence were usually convicted in federal courts—for no other reason than that the jury came from the district, from twenty-odd counties instead of one.

South Carolina could enact a statute providing that persons charged with lynching be tried in other than the county of the alleged crime, or in a county 100 miles from it. Automobiles have made travel for witnesses less costly and inconvenient for 100 miles than formerly it was for fifteen.

This compulsory change of venue would effect the reforms contemplated in Walter White's Wagner-Costigan bill which all the Northern Democrats supported, which had the support of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt who is to be counted one of the distinguished leaders of the national Democratic party. That it would do without impairing or trespassing upon the rights of the states.

The News and Courier, which has striven to suppress lynching in South Carolina the last sixty-three years—not without a measure of success—would advocate the enactment of a state law for change of venue in all lynching trials and would object to including in it no provisions of the Wagner-Costigan bill that promised to assist in the punishment of lynchers as long as they did not encroach upon the rights of the state. Senator Borah could probably stand on that platform.

73 LYNCHED; PRESIDENT IS STILL SILENT

Carl

Roosevelt Urged to Act Against Increasing Mob Violence

5-8-36

ANOTHER LYNCHING

Since the N. A. A. C. P. release was issued, citing 72 lynchings since President Roosevelt's inauguration, the seventy-third lynching occurred in Pavo, Ga., Sunday night, May 3. John Ruskin, 55, was lynched following his confession to killing Marion Pate, 24, white.

NEW YORK.—President Roosevelt was reminded this week that the lynching of Lint Shaw in Colbert, Ga., on April 28 and of Willie Kees in Lepanto, Ark., April 29, were the seventy-first and seventy-second since he has been in the White House.

The telegram citing the lynching record was sent by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and it urged the President to see that the Costigan-Wagner bill is brought to the floor of congress for action.

The association's telegram, signed by Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary, declared once more that the recent lynchings demonstrate the unwillingness or inability of the states to curb lynching.

The N. A. A. C. P. holds that the filibustering tactics on a federal anti-lynching bill are unquestionably encouraging mob sentiment in the South.

Wave of Mob Violence

At the N. A. A. C. P. office here the fear was expressed that the two lynchings of last week are but the beginning of a wave of mob violence which will continue throughout the summer unless congress takes some action on the federal anti-lynching bill.

In the House of Representatives the petition calling for a Democratic caucus on the anti-lynching bill has been snagged by the illness of Caucus Leader Edward T. Taylor. There are 39 signatures on the petition, 14 more than the required number and as soon as it is presented a caucus must be held within seven days.

Congressman Joseph Gavagan of New York author of one of the anti-lynching bill in the House, is expected to return to Washington from California about May 4 and is expected to take a prominent part in the Caucus on the bill.

Supporters of this legislation still are being urged to send letters to the Democratic Congressman from their states and districts urging them to be present at the Democratic caucus and vote to bring the bill ou on the floor and to support it after it reaches the floor.

Johnson City, Tenn., Press
April 30, 1936

Negroes Ask FDR's Action On Lynchings

NEW YORK, April 30. (AP)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People made public today a telegram to President Roosevelt urging the administration to bring anti-lynching legislation before congress.

"Since January, 1934, the government has had it within its power to pass a federal anti-lynching law but thus far the Costigan-Wagner bill has been sidetracked while unchecked mobs stage grisly parades every fortnight," the telegram said.

"At Colbert, Ga., on April 28 and at Lepanto, Ark., on April 29 occurred the 71st and 72nd authenticated lynchings since you took office March 4, 1933," it said.

Jacksonville, Fla. Journal
April 30, 1936

ANTI-LYNCHING LAW IS URGED

Association Sends Wire to Roosevelt

(By The Associated Press)

NEW YORK, April 30.—National association for the advancement of colored people made public today a telegram to President Roosevelt urging the administration to bring anti-lynching legislation before congress.

"Since January, 1934, the government has had it within its power to pass a federal anti-lynching law but thus far the Costigan-Wagner bill has been sidetracked while unchecked mobs stage grisly parades every fortnight," the telegram said.

"At Colbert, Ga., on April 28 and at Lepanto, Ark., on April 29 occurred the 71st and 72nd authenticated lynchings since you took office March 4, 1933," it said.

"These killings by mobs have occurred at an average of one every fifteen and one-half days since you have been the chief executive of the nation. During this period, as in previous years, the state and local governments have demonstrated conclusively that they are unable or unwilling to curb lynchings by arresting and punishing leads and members of mobs.

"The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, together with more than 40,000,000 persons who have endorsed this legislation, urgently request your administration to bring this legislation to the floor of both houses so that it may be considered upon its merits."

Nashville, Tenn. Tennessean
May 14, 1936

BORAH FLAYS ANTI-LYNCHING MEASURE

Ridicules Republican Leaders For Using 'Unfairly' to Get Negro Support

WASHINGTON, May 13.—(AP)—Senator Borah (R-Ida.) commenting on the Ohio primary election results, said today the men in control of the Republican party "have already demonstrated that they care nothing about constitutional integrity or the preservation of state rights."

Borah said for the "sake of a few votes" the men in charge of the party had "advocated a measure which strikes at the very heart of state sovereignty." He referred to the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill.

"The constitution and the rights of the states would not be any safer in their hands than in the hands of those who openly advocate a change in our form of government," he said.

Borah said that as to the "general result" of the Ohio primary "I have no comment nor complaint."

"But there is one thing which I think is worthy of public attention," Borah added. "The Republican party will go into the campaign laying great stress upon constitutional integrity and the preservation of state rights."

"The men who are in control of the party and who will likely be in control of the convention, will write its platform and name its candidate, have already demonstrated that they care nothing about constitutional integrity or the preservation of state rights, that their talk on the subject is hypocritical and intellectually dishonest.

"In New York, in Illinois and in Ohio, for the purpose of securing the votes of the colored people, they have advocated a measure which strikes at the very heart of state sovereignty and, if adopted, would utterly destroy the fundamental principle of our dual sovereignty of government.

They have been willing to do so for the sake of a few votes."

"They have gone to the colored people," Borah said, "and given them to understand that the Republican party will pass the so-called anti-lynching bill.

"And they have either been guilty of a wilful betrayal of one of the most fundamental principles of our system of government or they have been guilty of the deliberate deception of the colored voter.

Lynch Caucus Called

WASHINGTON, May 21.—(INS)—A call for a Democratic House caucus tomorrow night on anti-lynching legislation was issued today by Representative Taylor of Colorado, caucus chairman. The call was made mandatory when 38 House Democrats signed a petition requesting it.

CHICAGO, ILL. TRIBUNE

MAY 15 1936

LEGISLATION AGAINST LYNCHING.

Senator Borah attributes his defeat in the Ohio presidential primary in part to his candid opposition to a federal law to punish lynchers. No Republican, says the senator, can consistently favor anti-lynching legislation. The Republican platform will unquestionably demand full adherence to the constitution, and how, then, he asks, can the same platform and the same party favor an anti-lynching bill?

Mr. Borah assumes that such a bill would violate the constitution. He argues that the punishment of crimes of violence is a local concern, to be handled under state law in the state courts. In general, of course, that is true, but for the purposes of his argument Mr. Borah has conveniently forgotten the civil war and the amendments to the constitution which were born of that struggle. These amendments were intended primarily to establish and safeguard the civil and political rights of Negroes. It was well understood that the south would not voluntarily raise the Negro to the full stature of an American citizen. He would be held back and held under if it were at all possible to do so.

"Nor shall any state," says the fourteenth amendment, "deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." There are teeth in the amendment, for it provides at another point that "the congress shall have the power to enforce by appropriate legislation the provisions of this article."

In face of these provisions, Mr. Borah is hardly justified in denouncing anti-lynching legislation as patently unconstitutional. He cannot pretend that there is no more authority for a congressional act to punish lynching than there was authority for NRA or AAA. It may be true, as he believes, that the Supreme court will say that the acts of lynchers are not acts of the states where the lynchings take place and are therefore not subject to federal legislation under the fourteenth amendment, but certainly there would be no such violent wrenching of the constitution in an anti-lynching bill as was apparent in NRA, for example. The federal constitution at no point suggests that congress has a right to enact appropriate legislation for regulating the sale of chickens. The men who made the fourteenth amendment were thinking of the wrongs which had been done to Negroes and were aiming to right them against all subsequent efforts to persecute black men.

It does not follow, of course, that any anti-lynching bill, however drawn, would be constitutional, but it also does not follow that no anti-lynching bill can be valid. The legislation must be "appropriate." Mr. Borah seems to think that no legislation against lynching can be appropriate. That is a large assumption.

Lynchings - 1936
Legislation Relating to.

5403

NEW YORK JOURNAL

MAY 19 1936

CHURCH VOWS LYNCH WAR

COLUMBUS, O., May 19 (By International News Service).—Racial questions entered the closing session today when the Methodist Episcopal general conference pledged support of the church to the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill now pending in Congress.

The resolution, introduced by Dr. B. F. Smith, Chicago Negro, and overwhelmingly adopted by the conference, commits the church to work for passage of the Costigan-Wagner bill or similar anti-lynching legislation during the present session of Congress.

The conference voted to continue a commission to study ministerial salary scales which, it declared, "are deplorably low and should be raised in accordance with the Methodist declaration of social-economic questions."

NEW YORK, N. Y.
WORLD-TELEGRAM

MAY 19 1936

Federal Law Only Way to Curb Lynchings.

By Louise Norwood, The League for Southern Labor.

We heartily approve of your splendid editorial "The 'G' Way for Lynchers," May 13. During the week of May 4, three Negroes were lynched by mobs, two in Georgia and one, a boy of 18, in Arkansas.

Not only were there no efforts made to apprehend the murderers, but the officers of the law who should have protected the prisoners were not disciplined in any way. One sheriff had the effrontery to say that the prisoner was taken away from him while he turned his head to answer a question put by a bystander.

The only way to show that the right of trial by judge and jury still exists in the United States, is to urge the passage of the Wagner-Costigan Anti-lynching bill.

New York.

Alexandria, La. Town Talk
June 16, 1936

'DECIDED DRIFT' OF SOUTHERN OPINION

ATLANTA, June 16.—(By A. P.)—R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the commission on inter-racial co-operation, said today there has been a "decided drift" of Southern opinion in favor of federal anti-lynch legislation for two years.

Informed that completion of a petition of 218 names had brought the Gavagan anti-lynch bill to the House calendar at Washington, Eleazer said:

"The inter-racial commission endorsed the idea of federal anti-lynching legislation in 1935 on the grounds that the respective states, whose primary duty it is, had shown either the inability or the unwillingness to deal effectively with the lynching habit."

The endorsment was on general grounds, and did not approve any particular bill.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
July 9, 1936

The Indefensible Bill

Were the Costigan-Wagner bill enacted and trials of lynchers transferred from state to federal courts the puries would be drawn from large areas ,from twenty-odd counties instead of from one county. In no other way would the handling of the "lynching problem" be substantially affected. The state by an act of the legislature could have the venue changed in lynching trials and the juries drawn from half or all the counties. The News and Courier has made that suggestion and would advocate it, but if the South Carolinians do not wish to do it, it is their right not to do it and there is no right of the United States to coerce them. The News and Courier believes the Wagner-Costigan bill an infamous attack on the rights of our state and its people.

Military Guard For Negro Trial

Col. Moore To Command 150-Man Detail When Collins Goes To Court

Advertiser
Montgomery Ala
6-2-36

One hundred and fifty Alabama National Guardsmen will assist in the transfer from Kilby Prison to Anniston, of Roosevelt Collins, negro, who will go on trial there tomorrow morning on an indictment charging him with criminally assaulting Mrs. Joel Hill, wife of a white farmer residing in the Alexandria community of Calhoun County, Adjt. Gen. John C. Coleman announced yesterday. The troops will remain in Anniston to see that order is preserved while the trial is in progress. Lieut. Col. John T. Moore, assistant adjutant general, will be in command.

The force of 150 will be composed of 50 Guardsmen from Montgomery, 65 from Birmingham, and 35 from Talladega, where a contingent of soldiers has been stationed for the past week or 10 days, in connection with labor troubles involving employes of the Samoset Mills, which recently flared into an exchange of gunfire between union men and a group of citizens. Two persons were killed and 17 injured.

Following the assault for which Collins is to be tried for his life, the negro was hunted for two days and a night in a swamp where he had taken refuge, by a mob of more than a thousand enraged citizens. National Guardsmen and a squad from the State Highway Patrol, were sent to the scene by the Governor, with orders to "arrest and protect" the hunted man.

Arrested by officers of the sheriff's department, Collins was immediately taken to the Jefferson County jail in Birmingham, by a detail of Highway Patrolmen in charge of Capt. Potter Smith. At Birmingham the negro was positively identified by Mrs. Hill as her assailant Brought to Kilby Prison for safekeeping Collins soon after, it was announced made a full confession to the crime with which he is charged, to Capt. Smith in the presence of a number of other officers.

Taken to Anniston the first of last week for arraignment in Circuit Court, the negro was returned to Kilby the same day. The prisoner was transferred to and from the Calhoun County seat under armed military escort.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
DAILY WORKER

JUL 23 1936

'Fury' Occasion for Leaflets On Anti-Lynching Legislation

New York, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:

I attended a showing of the moving picture, "Fury," last night, and I noticed that the film succeeded in arousing the audience to a marked hostility toward the spirit and the human instruments of the lynching. The presence of an unusually large number of Negroes in the audience suggested that this picture has already achieved a certain prominence and distinction in the eyes of that group of Americans particularly the victims of lynch law.

The audiences, leaving the theater after viewing "Fury," are peculiarly susceptible to anti-lynching propaganda. I imagine that if leaflets were distributed to outgoing members of the audience, explaining the purpose of the Wagner-Costigan Anti-Lynching Bill, many people might be won over to active participation in backing such legislation.

L. P. S.

DISPATCH

Lexington S C

JUL 16 1936

LYNCHING QUESTION UP AGAIN

The anti-lynching bill that was before the last congress and which was defeated by a filibuster led by Senator Smith, of South Carolina, and again injected into the picture by the race discussion brought about by the prominence of negroes on the program of the Democratic convention, is again being discussed by some. The anti-lynching bill may pass congress, unless the New Dealers have lost their power over that body, but if it does lynching will continue in the South just as often as the crime for which men were originally lynched is committee. The one sure way to put a complete stop to lynchings is to eliminate the brutal criminals who commit the unspeakable crime that was the beginning of the sway of Old Judge Lynch in the South.

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NEW YORK, N. Y.
DAILY WORKER

JUL 25 1936

Lynch Views Of Magistrate Hit by Negroes

Call for Impeachment of Judge Blanchfield of Brooklyn

Impeachment proceedings against Magistrate James A. Blanchfield were being discussed yesterday among Negro workers in Brooklyn as a result of his alleged statements favoring the lynching of Negroes.

The most recent demand for Blanchfield's removal was voiced at a meeting of several hundred workers on Thursday night at the Williamsburg Workers Club.

Speakers reported that Magistrate Blanchfield had publicly stated that he favored lynching of Negroes as practised in Georgia and other Southern states.

Protecting 'White Womanhood'

They asserted that Blanchfield expressed lynch sentiments last week while presiding over the trial of Walter Etheridge, of 151 Nostrand Avenue, and John Hendricks of 173 Floyd Street, two young Negro boys charged with "annoying" two white girls.

Blanchfield is reported to have said while sitting on the bench in his official capacity:

"You know what would happen to you in Georgia—you would have been lynched. But you will find out that we have laws protecting white womenhood here in New York too."

A delegation of prominent Negro and white leaders is being organized to visit Mayor LaGuardia on Aug. 3 to demand the removal of the magistrate.

Communist Candidate Speaks

Speakers at the meeting included J. Stern Weiss, candidate for congress on the Communist ticket, Reverend Frazier Miller of St. Augustine's Church, and Joseph Taylor, young Negro leader.

Anti-lynching Bill Still An Issue

THE Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, which has twice just missed being brought to a vote in the senate, is still a major issue upon which candidates for the new congress should be pressed to declare themselves. This bill, which does not take lynching out of the category of ordinary murders over the prosecution of which the states have jurisdiction, but does make the failure of officers to do their duty in trying to prevent a lynching or in seeking to apprehend and prosecute lynchers a federal offense, is well known to readers of The Christian Century, many of whom belong to the scores of church and other groups in the north and the south which have declared for the passage of this legislation. It is important to realize, however, that the battle is not won and that persistent effort will be required to keep this bill from being relegated yet again by a small group of opponents to a secondary place on the legislative calendar. It is interesting to note how many southern white individuals and groups are insisting upon federal support for the local arm in handling this most vicious offense. They know better than others how often it happens that members of lynching mobs are not punished even when their identities are known and that grand juries refuse even to indict when officers of the law or interested citizens present them with sufficient evidence to justify conviction. Communities which have opposed the suggestion that the federal government take cognizance of lynchings in cases where state and local authorities have plainly indicated their disinclination to do so would be in better position if their own records were not at this point so notoriously bad. Lynching must stop; if the local communities cannot stop it, then by all means in the name of decency and humanity, not to mention constitutional guarantees, let the way be found for the federal government to help.

Christian Century
Chicago Ill
5 3

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
August 7, 1936

Looks Like a Negro Victory

As the Gulf states were infested by boll weevils in the last decade negroes in numbers migrated northward from them, and many settled in Louisville, Kentucky, a city that had been a long time normally Republican. Democratic "ward politicians" were cunning enough to bring these negroes into their camp and the political complexion of the town was changed to Democratic by negro votes. Judge Logan was elected to the United States senate, and when the bill of the negro, Walter White, to transfer lynching cases from state to federal courts, was introduced, by Senators Wagner and Costigan of the cities of New York and Denver, Mr. Logan was one of the two senators from border, or semi-Southern, states to vote for it.

In the primary the other day Senator Logan, candidate for reelection, led former Governor Beckham, and John Y. Brown was third. "John Y. Brawn" was a name familiar to the Democrats of the 1890s. He was the father or uncle of the present candidate, one supposes, and the Brown connection, which included the Youngs, were of the "Confederate Kentuckians", standing in Kentucky as the Hamptons and Butlers stood to South Carolina. Of course everything "Confederate" except the name has now vanished from the South, and the ruling modern politicians, snigger in their sleeves at it.

The "Democrats" this year have been smart to place Senator Guffey at the head of their campaign political committee. He is the man who captured the negroes of Pennsylvania, where negroes have been appointed to federal and state offices by twenties and fifties.

The Democrats of Pennsylvania, Republicans assisting, have enacted a law, which Governor Earle, Democrat, approved, making the refusal of a hotel-keeper to entertain a negro an indictable offence. That Senator Guffey is chairman of the Democratic senatorial campaign committee is a way of saying to negroes wherever they vote, "We Northern Democrats mean to give you your rights." Doubtless it meant that to the negroes in Kentucky, where they are numerically important in a Democratic primary.

In South Carolina the question is not for the moment of practical interest. This year and possibly in 1938, when is no presidential election, the national Democratic party will permit the South Carolina Democrats to exclude the negroes from their primary. In 1940 it is likely that the Democratic negro campaign under the direction of the Guffeys and Logans will reach South Carolina. If a "white man's party" shall resist it, the national Democratic machine will see that negroes have offices, and the politicians in good standing with it will have every advantage.

We shall have trouble in South Carolina. It will be Democratic trouble, negro trouble of Northern Democratic contrivance.

In South Carolina are now no Democrats warning of it, and no one knows better than The News and Courier how useless is its warning to those who are receiving the gifts from the treasury and the paying offices.

Lynchings - 1936
Legislation Relating to.

5404

Conway, S. C., Herald
June 18, 1936

BETWEEN DEVIL AND DEEP SEA

Pres. Roosevelt's Problem In Anti-Lynching Bill Is Explained

(The Chronicle, Rosslyn, Va.)

The National Association for the advancement of colored people, and the National Urban League, have earnestly requested Mr. Roosevelt to put through Congress the Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynching bill. Other negro organizations are putting pressure upon him. They tell him that he has power to bring this legislation to the floor of both houses of Congress so that a vote may be had on the merits. A recent telegram to Mr. Roosevelt, signed by Assistant Secretary Roy Wilkins of the National Association for the advancement of colored people informs Mr. Roosevelt that during his administration, with this legislation pending in Congress, there has been a lynching every fifteen days, and seventy-two lynchings since he took office on March 4, 1933. Telegram reminds Mr. Roosevelt that he has done nothing toward the curbing of lynchings, and nothing toward having Congress pass a federal antilynching law, and that the Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynching bill has been sidetracked, "while unchecked mobs stage ghastly parades every fortnight." What does Mr. Roosevelt do? He tells leading negroes "Wait, just wait, everything is going to be alright." But the negroes are getting tired of promises and waiting. Mr. Roosevelt tells them he is for the bill, and does nothing. He tells them that the administration has put more negroes in office than has any republican administration, and that after the reduction of the forces at Boulder Dam the Negroes were put back. But the negroes know that Woodrow Wilson did more for the negro than any administration, although he had no social equality at the White House and that at Boulder Dam of 1,100 men on the pay roll, only four were negroes, and that the busses belonging to the Federal Reclamation Service hauled the white men to work, but refused to haul the negro workers, and that in the federal owned town of Las Vegas negroes are not permitted to live.

Mr. Roosevelt does not intend to do anything for the passage of the federal anti-lynching bill during this administration because the members of the House and Senate from the South have warned him that if he tries to put that bill through Congress he will lose a number of southern states. There is no doubt, however, that the bill when drafted was submitted to him and that it was pronounced constitutional by his Department of Justice.

Meanwhile to placate the negroes, in whom there is a growing distrust and resentment, Mrs. Roosevelt makes numerous addresses to negro audiences, at churches, before the National association for the protection of colored people in Washington, and before the National Urban league in Baltimore, and elsewhere, telling the negroes that she is in favor of the Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynching bill, and the negro newspapers, whose owners and whose editors are on the government payroll, spread the news among the poor, ignorant, gullible negroes, while Mr. Roosevelt does nothing.

In the Senate, such able men as Senator Ellison Smith of South Carolina and Senator Borah, oppose the bill on the ground that it would be the beginning of a new carpet-bag rule in the South, and that to enforce the bill a republican administration would send federal troops to surround federal courts in the south, and that federal troops would be lodged in the post offices, customs houses, and federal buildings as in carpet-bag days, to carry elections. Meanwhile not a word is said on the floor of the Senate by Senator Robinson, the democratic floor leader, or by Senator Byrnes of South Carolina, against the bill. The President knows that the bill will pass the Senate and House if it is brought to a vote, but he fears the loss of the solid south if he advocates the passage of the bill and he fears the negro vote if he does not assure them. The real question is, will entertaining negroes at luncheons, buffet luncheons, dinners, and suppers at the White House satisfy the negro leaders?

Chattanooga, Tenn. Times
July 10, 1936

'NOT AN OPEN MIND.'

The Columbia *State*, which is a neighbor of the Charleston *News and Courier*, has apparently been trying to interest the latter in a discussion of the Costigan-Wagner bill which would make lynching a Federal offense. The editor of the *News and Courier* is the distinguished Colonel W. W. Ball, whose bitter opposition to the New Deal is staked out at a point only about three degrees Southwest of Obsession. Under the heading, "Not an Open Mind," Colonel Ball asserts in a recent issue:

> The *News and Courier* cannot discuss the Costigan-Wagner bill with the Columbia *State*. The *News and Courier* has no open mind on that subject. It is stubborn, impenetrable. The people who are of more liberal opinions are excusable if they lose patience with it.

Not on that score should be the people ever lose patience with the Charleston *News and Courier*. The late Gilbert K. Chesterton could have turned out a neat paradox concerning the open-mindedness of the man who asserts his mind is not open. The *News and Courier* may be stubborn and impenetrable. But if it is, Colonel Ball will do well to say little about it if he really wants his readers to think so. The newspaper readers who ought to lose their patience are those who read the outgivings of editors who are liberal only with their pretensions.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
TIMES

JUL 6 - 1936

PUSHES WAR ON LYNCHING

Wagner Says Only a Federal Law Can Stop Practice.

BALTIMORE, July 5 (AP).—Senator Wagner told the Association For the Advancement of Colored people today that lynching can be ended only by Federal legislation.

He drew prolonged applause in asserting that "fifty million people have united in pleading for the enactment of a Federal anti-lynching law" and pledging himself to a renewed fight toward this end.

He insisted that the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill offered at the last session of Congress does not invade States' rights, but "interferes only with mob rule." He was sure, he declared, that it came well within "the limits of what Congress already has been permitted to do under the Constitution."

"At the same time," he added, "I cannot refrain from expressing my protest at the increasing frequency with which our great Constitution, conceived in liberty, is used improperly as a shield for low wages, for long hours, and for every form of human exploitation and inhuman persecution."

ROCHESTER, N. Y.
Democrat Chronicle

JUN 20 1936

From Other Newspapers

AN INCIDENTAL EFFECT

New York Sun

That 218 members of the House of Representatives have signed a petition to discharge the Judiciary Committee from further consideration of the Gavagan anti-lynching bill may not mean that all of those members have resolved their doubts about the constitutionality of a federal measure aimed at lynch law. It must mean, however, that these 218 Representatives have been impressed by the bad record of local officers since the last anti-lynch bill was brought to a dead stop.

There have been honorable exceptions. There have been local officials who have risked their lives and their political fortunes to resist the passions of the mob and to defend the orderly processes of the law. But the record stands for all to read—a bloody and discreditable record of lynch law.

It is easy for proponents of Federal laws against lynching to argue that every time there is agitation in Congress for an anti-lynching law the number of lynchings declines and every time it is apparent that there will be no immediate legislation the number of lynchings rises.

If there is a real relation between agitation of the question in Congress and the incidence of lynching the mere signing of the petition by 218 Representatives may make some local officers feel their true responsibility for preservation of law and order. This is less than advocates of a Federal law ask for and hope for, but this is about all that they have reason to expect right now.

Jackson, Miss. Ledger
December 13, 1936

Party Majority No Guarantee Against Anti-Lynching Legislation

Washington news stories report plans by Republican leaders to begin a new drive for Federal anti-lynching legislation when Congress convenes, as a move to recapture the negro vote in the North.

The story adds that although the Republicans have less than 20 votes in the Senate, they may be able, through obstructive tactics at times when the Administration must have important legislation enacted without delay, to force consideration of an anti-lynching bill.

These revelations are not surprising. Such an effort by the Republican survivors in Congress was foreseen by some Democratic leaders. Politically, it is a logical move for them to make.

The existence of heavy Democratic majorities in both houses does not make this revival of demands for anti-lynching legislation any less dangerous to the South, or to those opposing such federal legislation.

Many Democrats from other sections have always favored such legislation, as the only solution to the lynching problem, and the vote would not be strictly on party lines. It is probable, however, that the issue will be more serious in 1938 than next year, for in 1938 the Congressmen will be up for re-election and Democratic members from states with a large negro electorate may favor anti-lynching legislation as "good politics."

We don't think there is any immediate need of alarm. But this story is a reminder that this is not a dead issue despite the results of the election and the overwhelming control of both Houses by the Democrats.

It is true now, as in years past, that the best offensive against such legislation, the best protection against it, is for all the Southern states to curb lynchings more effectively. That is the best thing for the whites and the black. That is right.

It can be done, in Mississippi and elsewhere, and the better it is done, the less the danger of Federal legislation.

Greenwood, Miss. Commonwealth
December 10, 1936

G. O. P. WILL SEEK LYNCH LAWS

News from Washington indicates that the Republican Senate leaders will make a determined drive to obtain anti-lynching legislation in a move to recapture the negro vote of the north.

The Republicans are seizing upon the anti-lynching movement as most likely to regain the negro vote which has been gradually slipping away from them.

Anti-lynching laws have been urged and battled for many times during the past seventy years. It does not stand to reason that if the Repulbican party could not force through Congress their anti-lynching bills when they were in the vast majority in congress and in the country, the party will be able to do so in its dying days.

The Republican party rode into power prior to the War Between the States on the back of of the negro.

In these latter days when the party seems to be disintegrating before the forces of progress it appears determined to again bestride the negro in a vain attempt to prevent its inevitable dissolution.

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84 MORE JOIN FIGHT ON MOB

Signers of Pledge to Work for U. S. Law Have Reached 121

10-24

Eighty-four candidates for Congress have signed a pledge sent them by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to support and work for a federal anti-lynching bill if elected, and to oppose discrimination in the civil service in relief jobs and other employment, it was announced yesterday.

Prior to the present tabulation, 37 candidates had signed the pledge, bringing the total signers to 121. In addition to this number, 84 candidates in this week's tabulation have promised in writing, but not in the exact words of the N. A. A. C. P. pledge, to support an anti-lynching bill and to oppose discrimination. Forty-four candidates had previously made this pledge, bringing this total to 98.

Twenty-four candidates for re-election answered the N. A. A. C. P. letter by citing the fact that they had supported anti-lynching legislation in the past Congress and, therefore, would do so in the next Congress. This makes a total of 243 candidates definitely on record to date.

NEGRO WOMEN PARADE IN LYNCHING PROTEST

Six, Veiled and Silent, in Picket Line Before the Democratic Headquarters Here

Times
10-27-36

Carrying black-bordered placards that proclaimed the failure of the New Deal to enact effective anti-lynching legislation, six veiled Negro women in full mourning attire established a picket line outside of the Biltmore Hotel yesterday afternoon. The protest was directed to the Democratic National Committee, whose headquarters are in the hotel.

The pickets refused to tell what organization was sponsor for the protest. They made no effort to distribute literature and the placards were the only things that indicated the purpose of the protest. One sign read, "Sudden Death. Lynching continues in the Democratic Couth. F. D. R. says nothing." Another was, "In Memorium. Sixty lynchings under the New Deal."

Democratic headquarters said the picketing was a Republican trick, an assertion that was denied at the Republican headquarters.

Mrs. Caroline O'Day, Democratic candidate for re-election as Representative at Large, whose headquarters are in the Biltmore, inquired of Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, whether that organization was responsible for the picket parade. He disclaimed any responsibility.

Mrs. O'Day issued a statement saying she had been active in opposing discrimination as to race, creed or color and had worked energetically in support of the anti-lynching bill.

Birmingham, Ala. News
December 10, 1936

ANTI-LYNCHING IS SOUGHT BY G. O. P.

Trade On Vote Considered Probability As Negroes' Ballots Eyed

WASHINGTON—(AP) — A determined drive to obtain anti-lynching legislation at the next Congress was planned today by Senate Republican leaders in a move to recapture the potent Negro vote of the North.

Disturbed by evidence of wholesale desertions by Negro voters in the last election, the Republicans seized on the anti-lynching move as the most likely to regain for the party the strength it once held with the Negro race.

Ordinarily, a party with less than a score of votes in the Senate would have little voice in shaping legislation. In the coming Congress, however, the administration will face a half dozen vital deadlines which would make obstructive tactics particularly embarrassing.

The Republicans could delay action and perhaps force an agreement to consider anti-lynching legislation.

The first deadline is likely to involve an appropriation for relief. With the $1,425,000,000 appropriated last year almost gone, the administration must get new funds by the end of January or thousands of families dependent on work relief help will go hungry.

Another will come with expiration of President Roosevelt's monetary powers at the end of January. Operation of the $2,000,000,000 stabilization fund, a fundamental part of the new monetary understanding with Great Britain and France, will end at that time unless Congress votes new authority.

Many other "deadlines" will occur later, including expiration of the tariff law, the RFC, the Public Works Administration and many other powers created under emergency legislation.

Many times anti-lynching bills have been blocked in the Senate by obstructive tactics of Southern senators. These senators might be helpless if the Republicans should demand an agreement fo ra vote on an anti-lynching bill in exchange for assurance that the Senate would be permitted to vote on a much-needed administration measure.

Lynchings-1936
Legislation Relating to.

5405

LANDON LYNCHING STATEMENT
NOT CLEAR TO N.A.A.C.P.

Association Commends Section on Employment, but Asks by What Means Negroes Are to Be Integrated Into Productive Life of Nation

Press Service of the N.A.A.C.P.
10-9-36 New York, N.Y.

New York, Oct. 9.- The statement of Governor Alf M. Landon, Republican candidate for President, condemning lynching and declaring "we must devise some legal means" to end mob murder is "puzzling" to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

A statement issued from the national office of the association today says: "We should like to know precisely what 'legal means' Mr. Landon has in mind. Does he mean a federal law as is proposed in such measures as the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill? Or does he mean leaving it to the states to pass such laws?"

The association calls Governor Landon's pronouncement for greater employment of Negroes in the productive life of the nation "a significant statement which goes to the root of the Negro's economic plight," but again the N.A.A.C.P. asks specifically for the methods by which Governor Landon proposes to effect re-employment of the Negro by private industry.

"Previous administrations, of both political parties," the statement declares, "have failed to accomplish the desired integration."

The complete N.A.A.C.P. statement follows:

"The N.A.A.C.P. is gratified that a candidate for the Presidency has seen fit to make a statement regarding lynching, relief, jobs, and abolishment of discrimination in the civil service, with specific reference to the Negro. However, Governor Landon's statement leaves a good deal to be desired, and frankly we are puzzled by parts of it.

"For example, in discussing lynching Governor Landon makes the statement that 'we must devise some legal means' against lynching. We should like to know precisely what the 'legal means' are which Mr. Landon has in mind. Does he mean a federal law as is proposed in such measures as the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill? Or does he mean leaving it to the states to pass such laws? This is pertinent, in view of the recently acquired enthusiasm by the Republican party for the doctrine of 'states' rights.' Governor Landon's statement is so vague that it could be made by any candidate for office, even in the South.

"The sections dealing with employment are somewhat clearer. We agree with Governor Landon that relief is neither the permanent answer to unemployment nor is it satisfactory. We agree also that 'the only hope of the Negro for the future lies in his being reemployed and integrated into the great productive life of our country.' This is a significant statement which goes to the root of the Negro's economic plight; but we should like to know specifically what means and methods Governor Landon proposes to use in effecting reemployment of the Negro by private industry.

(Cont'd. Page 2)

This information is of paramount interest to colored Americans because previous administrations, of both political parties, have failed to accomplish the desired integration.

"And as for discrimination by the civil service, we Negroes cannot forget that this discrimination has gone on under both parties.

"In its capacity of serving as a watch-dog over the rights of Negro Americans, and because of its non-partisan political attitude, the N.A.A.C.P. will continue to urge upon all political parties that they be unequivocal on issues of paramount interest to the Negro voter."

LANDON ADVOCATES ANTI-LYNCHING LAW

Times

Negro Leader Quotes Him as Pledging Equality on Relief and in Federal Jobs.

10-6-36

WET VISITORS 'SATISFIED'

New York, N.Y.

Kansan Holds Prohibition Dead Issue, Say Missourians—He Welcomes Legion Head.

By JAMES A. HAGERTY

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

TOPEKA, Oct. 5.—Governor Landon today satisfied a delegation of Missouri wets as to his position on prohibition, declared for legislation to check lynching and discussed with Colonel Arthur W. Little, methods of winning back to the Republican party Negroes who deserted it to vote for President Roosevelt in 1932. In addition the Governor participated in the homecoming welcome to Harry W. Colmery, the Topeka man, who recently was elected national commander of the American Legion.

The Missouri delegation consisted of Herman Langworthy of Kansas City, who was chairman of the resolutions committee at the Republican National Convention; Alfred Shapleigh of St. Louis, who was the Missouri chairman of the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment; Judge Granville Hogan, Edgar Queeny, Edmond Koeln, Arnold Stifel and Leo Kohler of St. Louis, and Henry Bundschu of Kansas City. They had lunch with Governor Landon, after which Mr. Shapleigh said:

'Impressed by Sincerity'

"We are thoroughly satisfied with Governor Landon's position on prohibition. He believes that prohibition is a dead issue, as we all do. It is a question now for the future for the States to make their own choice.

"We were tremendously impressed by Landon's sincerity and his grasp of conditions. We believe he will keep his promises.

"We are very hopeful of carrying Missouri for Landon if we get an honest count. We will get pretty close to an honest count in St. Louis but it is doubtful if we do in Kansas City."

Governor Landon discussed matters affecting Negroes with Robert R. Church, a Memphis business man and a leader among the Negro people, who quoted the Governor as as having said to him:

"In common with all law-abiding citizens of this country, I am unalterably opposed to lawlessness in all its forms and, of course, this includes lynching, which is a blot on our American civilization. We must devise some legal means which will be effective in ending this great menace to our institutions."

Backs Equality in Relief

In his talk with Mr. Church Governor Landon repeated what he had said in his speeches, that the government must see that no American citizen suffered for lack of the necessities of life until private industry provided employment for those now on the relief rolls.

"Furthermore," Governor Landon added, "our party will insist that the colored man shall receive equal treatment in the receiving of relief and not be discriminated against because of his race or political faith.

"Although I consider relief of importance, still I feel with the colored citizen that the only hope of the Negro for the future lies in his being re-employed and integrated into the great productivel ife of our country. It is because I hold such convictions that I consider the platform of our party as the only thing which can achieve for the colored American that enjoyment of American life which is his due.

"The attempt of the New Deal to use relief rolls as modern reservations on which the great colored race is to be confined forever as a ward of the Federal Government where the Negro will be excluded from a place in the productive life of our country is not only disastrous to a great people but of alarming economic consequence to our entire economic and social life.

For "Honest" Merit System

"I fully subscribe to the pledge of the Republican platform that our party will do its best to further the employment of the colored citizens in the gainfully occupied life of the country.

"A restored and honest merit system in the Federal service is something that the government can do directly to further economic opportunity for the colored man, and I am firm that all necessary safeguards be erected and maintained to insure that no man is prevented from entering the Federal civil service or getting deserved promotion because of his race or political faith. Further, I am convinced that there are many things which can be devised and should be done by the government to aid the further employment of the colored citizen, and I am happy to subscribe wholeheartedly to such an endeavor."

Governor Landon discussed the Negro political situation with Colonel Little, who arrived with his right wrist in a cast because of its fracture in an automobile accident near Bismark, N. D., last Thursday. Mrs. Little, who was hurt more seriously, is in a Chicago hospital.

Negro Support Is Urged

Colonel Little, a major in the 369th Infantry, a New York Negro regiment during the World War, and its commander afterward, is a Republican, but supported Mr. Roosevelt for President in 1932.

"In 1932, when I advised the colored voters to register protest against President Hoover, it was for sound reasons," Colonel Little said. "This year I have been asked by colored individuals and colored groups or organizations to advise them, and I look upon this privilege of advising my colored friends as a very serious responsibility. I have been working for several months to develop a reason which I would feel justified in passing on with wholehearted endorsement. Today I feel that I have got it.

"Three weeks ago at Cody, Wyoming, I had an illuminating discussion of this situation with Colonel Knox. Today I have had an equally illuminating discussion with Governor Landon. We have met in our minds, and as a result of our discussion I am glad to be able to tell my friends of the colored race that I beg of them to get behind the Republican ticket and use their balance of power in the fourteen States in which they control the balance of power to elect the Landon and Knox ticket next month."

Colonel Little added that he would give in detail the reasons why he believed Negro voters should support the Republican national ticket in speeches later in the campaign.

Governor Greets Legion Head

Governor Landon was at his desk in the State House most of the day. The Governor stood on the south steps of the State House to watch the arrival of a parade of Legionnaires. In his speech welcoming Mr. Colmery, the new national commander, he said:

"I am sure I am expressing the sentiments of all Kansans when I say that we are proud and happy that the American Legion has selected as its national commander this year another Kansan. As Chief Executive of the State I welcome you, Harry Colmery, and extend my sincere congratulations on the great honor which has come to you. It is a fitting recognition of your long years of service through the American Legion and of your devotion to the interests of all ex-service men.

"I congratulate you also on the opportunity which it gives you for increased service—not only to the Legion but to the nation as well. You have been especially interested in the Americanization work of the Legion and in the campaign to secure a universal draft law, so you are particularly well qualified to lead the American Legion in this work.

"Personally I wish to express my delight and approval of the trust and confidence which the American Legion has placed in you. It means giving one of the best years of your life to the work of this great patriotic organization. As one of your many friends and as a fellow legionnaire I wish the American Legion its most successful year under your able leadership. At this crucial time you will need and deserve the help of every American. You will have mine."

Landon Rides in Parade

By The Associated Press.

TOPEKA, Oct. 5.—Harry Colmery,, new national commander of the American Legion, at the welcoming ceremonies attended by Governor Landon here today, pledged maintenance of the non-political policy of the American Legion.

"The first of the ten cardinal principles of the American Legion is to uphold and defend the Constitution," Mr. Colmery said. "The Legion is opposed to communism, fascism, Hitlerism and kindred alien isms, because we believe they all exemplify the very absolutism and arbitrary type of government, to protect against which our con-

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families, land so far removed from roads and markets as to make shipping of scanty crops unprofitable, have been taken over by the county and retired for use as public forests or for recreational purposes, reports Wisconsin University.

Some former inhabitants of this land have been removed to better farming districts or to towns where their employment as farm laborers or in some type of urban task is possible. Many more need to be relocated.

Removal of inhabitants from isolated non-producing areas helps free counties from a health burden that is both physical and financial, Mr. Rowlands points out. Poor families huddled in squalid huts with little means of sanitation are a health burden to any community. Poor conditions breed disease that must be guarded against.

By demolishing the shacks and huts in the zoned areas many counties have made it difficult, if not impossible, for squatters or itinerant settlers to locate in these territories and reestablish a health and financial burden there.

Lynchings-1936
Legislation Relating to.

5406

Columbia, S. C. State
July 7, 1936

THE WAGNER-COSTIGAN ANTI-LYNCHING BILL.

The News and Courier has worked itself into a serious state of mind. It is fearful that the Roosevelt administration, supported by Northern Democrats in congress, is bent upon insuring the right of the ballot to Southern Negroes, and that white South Carolinians will be then overwhelmed at the ballot box.

We would calm rather than excite our esteemed contemporary, but it assures us we are wrong in our suggestion that it is rattling a mouldy skeleton and seeing ghosts. It is positive the menace it apprehends is real.

Against such conviction, it seems futile to contend. But we must direct attention to the fact that it is only now raising the "race issue," whereas, it has for all practical and political purposes, been outside the national Democratic party headed by Roosevelt for these many months. Because of its bitter feeling against Roosevelt and his economic and other governmental policies, The News and Courier is not in a position to support or to wish success to the national Democratic party this year, regardless of this suddenly and somewhat furiously injected "Negro question." So that in pressing this new indictment against Roosevelt and the national Democratic party, The News and Courier is not doing so from the standpoint of a sorrowful or indignant friend, but as one who is already, on other grounds, a declared enemy.

While without hope of changing our contemporary's line of thought about what we regard as a politics-born race issue bogy, we must insist that our views are not based on mere opinion. For what reason does our contemporary suppose "Northern Democrats" are more or less hell-bent on so changing suffrage conditions in the South that some Southern states would appear in the Republican columns? And while few of Roosevelt's enemies give him white marks for being an humanitarian, they do not deny that he is. Why do they imagine he would attempt a course which would be a blow to the material progress being made by the Negroes of the South, force a reversal to the strife of sixty years ago, and invite disastrous conflict?

The State holds no commission as spokesman for Roosevelt; we do claim the right to speak for common sense and sanity.

In a recent editorial our Charleston contemporary in insisting upon the menace of the "Negro question" appears particularly bitter against the Wagner-Costigan bill. We quote its references:

> The "Negro question" has been raised by the Costigan-Wagner bill, supported by every Northern Democrat in the senate and two from border states—for the time defeated by a Southern filibuster. . . .
>
> Would not all the Northern Democrats in congress vote for a "force bill" to insure Negro voting in the South if the president asked it? They voted for the Wagner-Costigan bill to a man. . . .
>
> If The News and Courier sees a "ghost" it can be laid. The State cannot lay it. Franklin Roosevelt can. He can assure the South that not while he is president will any federal legislation interfere with the South's handling of its political affairs if his veto will stop it. He can say that he will veto the Costigan-Wagner bill if passed and kill it. President Roosevelt can lay the ghost—lay it in one short, straightforward sentence. . . .
>
> Franklin Roosevelt, not The State, is the authority on this ghost. The State's testimony is secondary and not admissible. Call Franklin Roosevelt!

What is the Wagner-Costigan bill?

In a word, it gives the federal government authority to act in cases of lynching, as it now has authority to act in cases of kidnaping and in the protection of certain migratory water-fowl. It provides punishment for officers of the law who fail to protect a prisoner from a mob; for federal prosecution of lynchers and for the imposition of a financial penalty upon a county in which a lynching occurs. According to The New International Year Book for 1934, the bill was drawn after a commission investigating the lynchings in 1930, reported that of the 25 lynchings that year, two of the victims were not only innocent of any crime but had not been accused; that there was grave doubt of the guilt of eleven others. "In six of those eleven cases there is considerable doubt as to what crimes, if any, were committed, and in the other five in which there is no question of the crimes committed, there is considerable doubt as to whether the mobs got the guilty men."

Who sponsored the Wagner-Costigan bill? Among the civil organizations supporting it were the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, the National Student council, the American Civil Liberties union, the Race Relations committee, the Society of Friends, the National Urban league, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Public Affairs committee, the national board of Young Women's Christian associations, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Writers' League Against Lynching, the Church League for Industrial Democracy, the League for Industrial Democracy, the American Federation of Teachers, and the Congregational and Christian churches.

And lest it be assumed advocates of federal action had no definite Southern connections, it should be mentioned that the Southern Association of White Women for the Prevention of Lynching in convention with delegates present from twelve Southern states adopted a resolution calling upon President Roosevelt to take action to federate the efforts of federal, state and local officers to wipe out lynching. While offering no suggestion as to how their proposal was to work out, "the delegates thought approval of an anti-lynching law would interfere with the campaign of education now being carried on in the South."

There is the Wagner-Costigan bill. Senator Borah is joined by some other constitutional lawyers in holding its provisions unconstitutional. Quite probably it is. Unquestionably it is in violation of those state's rights which were so strongly and persistently defended in the South in other generations, but which in recent years many Southern representatives in congress have abandoned in exchange for local material advantage.

But where is there connection between the Wagner-Costigan bill and the old "Force bill"? At what point does the former touch the question of suffrage in the South? Where does it inject the "race question"? It is directed against the impunity of mob-murder, a conspicuous disgrace to American civilization; it is directed against that mob-murder which has in numbers of instances included burning of human beings at the stake, and the brutal killing of many, many innocent persons. It proposes to invoke the federal power only where the states fail to function as upholders of the majesty of their own laws.

"Call Franklin Roosevelt!" shouts The News and Courier. All right, call him to the witness stand. We do not know what his answers will be, but what will The New and Courier's questions be? Will it claim the South's peculiar right to a perpetual open season for hunting and killing humans by the mob, when the South has invoked federal laws governing hunting of doves and ducks? Can it, in behalf of the rights of states, claim exclusive jurisdiction over murders by mobs when it has acquiesced in and its spokesmen have supported legislation giving the federal government's G-men full right of way against kidnaping gangsters? Should it, in all honesty, be surprised, indignant or outraged that so many church and civic organizations of the country invoked the federal power to stop lynching, when the South raised no potent voice against giving similar power to the federal government in cases where men, women or children are stolen for ransom? It is decidedly uncomfortable for one simultaneously to ride two horses going in opposite directions.

The strongest defense against the Wagner-Costigan bill lies in the question of its constitutionality. And that question is for consideration, first, by congress with constitutional lawyers and then, if need be, by the United States supreme court.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
HERALD-TRIBUNE

JUL 14 1936

Lynching Found Halted While U. S. Bill Was Up

Revived When Act Was Killed, Says Negroes' Aid Society

There was an almost complete cessation of lynching during that part of 1935 when the Costigan-Wagner bill to make lynching a federal offense was pending in Congress, it is shown in the twenty-sixth annual report of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue, made public yesterday.

The report also calls attention to "the almost immediate outburst which followed the side-tracking of that bill by the eight-day filibuster in the United States Senate led by senators from states with the worst lynching records." Nineteen of the twenty-five lynchings of 1935, the report says, took place after the filibuster.

The lynchings of 1935, it is stated, "offer conclusive proof, if such proof were needed, of the fallacy of the belief that lynchings are caused by sex crimes against white women. Only one of the twenty-five victims was charged with rape, and only three with attempted rape."

RICHMOND VA.
TIMES DISPATCH

JUL 16 1936

Federal Law and Lynchings

IN its annual report, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People stresses the significance of the "almost complete cessation of lynching" in 1935, while the COSTIGAN-WAGNER anti-lynching bill was pending in Congress. It also points to the outburst of these crimes after the measure was sidetracked, May 1, by an eight-day filibuster in the Senate.

The bill was reported favorably by the Judiciary Committee on March 13. It was definitely lost about 2 1-2 months later. During the period the measure was on the calendar, only three lynchings were recorded in the United States. In the remaining seven months of the year, 19 persons lost their lives at the hands of mobs.

The association may be warranted in using this record as an argument in favor of a Federal antilynching law. Certainly, there were comparatively fewer lynchings during the 2 1-2 months the Senate was considering the bill than during the seven months after the measure had been killed. Conceivably, this discrepancy could be accounted for either by the determination of mobsters to be "good" while the proposal was being discussed, by way of showing the needlessness of such a law, or by dread on their part of what the United States Government might do.

Neither explanation, however, appeals to us as wholly logical. Mobsters are not the sort to contemplate thoughtfully congressional proceedings. The man with sufficiently low mental and moral fibre to take part in a lynching probably never heard of the COSTIGAN-WAGNER bill. His intellectual urges are few and feeble.

We are inclined to think that there is little or no significance in the "almost complete cessation of lynching" in 1935, while the COSTIGAN-WAG[redacted] was pending in Congress. The striking difference in conditions during that time and later probably was purely a coincidence. Certainly lynching is an evil which should be ruthlessly stamped out. We doubt, however, if a Federal law would be effective, even if it were held to be constitutional. And mere discussion of it is not likely to have a deterrent effect on nit-wit mobsters.

N.A.A.C.P. MAPS FIGHT FOR ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Press service of the N.A.A.C.P.

New York, Dec. 4.- The forces which have campaigned since 1934 for a federal anti-lynching law are being coordinated by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for a new drive to secure the passage of federal legislation against lynching in the 75th Congress, which meets in January. New York, N.Y.

12-4-36

The N.A.A.C.P. has been engaged upon preliminary work, and during the election campaign, sent a questionnaire to all candidates for congress. This activity resulted in the securing of direct or indirect pledges from almost two hundred successful cnadidates that they would support a federal anti-lynching bill. About 250 successful candidates have indicated that they are not hostile to federal legislation, although some of them are not definitely pledged to support it.

The present activity of the N.A.A.C.P. is to perfect the strategy of the drive in the new congress so that work can begin promptly as soon as congress convenes.

Conferences either have been held or are being arranged with certain leaders in the House and the Senate. Factual information upon the lynchings that have occurred in the last two years is being prepared for distribution to congressmen and interested supporterz of the bill. An attempt is being made to anticipate and answer all the possible objections to federal legislation.

Since the Costigan-Wagner bill died with the old congress, a new bill will have to be introduced, but it is expected that it will resemble the Costigan-Wagner bill in all essential features. A preliminary text has been drafted and is being studied by legislative experts with an eye to presenting a strong bill.

Lynchings-1936
Legislation Relating to.

5407

NEW YORK, N. Y.
SUN

JUN 17 1936

As Incidental Effect.

That 218 members of the House of Representatives have signed a petition to discharge the Judiciary Committee from further consideration of the Gavagan anti-lynching bill may not mean that all of those members have resolved their doubts about the constitutionality of a Federal measure aimed at lynch law. It must mean, however, that these 218 Representatives have been impressed by the bad record of local officers since the last anti-lynching bill was brought to a dead stop. There have been honorable exceptions. There have been local officials who have risked their lives and their political fortunes to resist the passions of the mob and to defend the orderly processes of the law. But the record stands for all to read—a bloody and discreditable record of lynch law. It is easy for proponents of Federal laws against lynching to argue that every time there is agitation in Congress for an anti-lynching law the number of lynchings declines and every time it is apparent that there will be no immediate legislation the number of lynchings rises. These may not be cause and effect, but the figures make a powerful argument that they are. The rise and fall of lynching may not be synchronized with the rise and fall of sentiment in Congress for a Federal law, but if a sufficient number of Congressmen believe them to be the result will be the same.

No vote on the petition to discharge seems possible under the rules of the House before July 13. There is therefore little likelihood of legislation at the present session of Congress. But if there is a real relation between agitation of the question in Congress and the incidence of lynching the mere signing of the petition by 218 Representatives may make some local officers feel their true responsibility for preservation of law and order. This is less than advocates of a Federal law ask for and hope for, but this is about all that they have reason to expect right now.

CHARLESTON, S. C.
NEWS COURIER

JUN 10 1936

Their Campaign

Senator Wagner, Senator Costigan, Senator Van Nuys, other Democratic congressmen, if they have common sense, know that transfer of trials of lynchers to federal courts would not tend to diminish lynching in the South. It would incite brutes and ruffians to lynch. It would discourage the efforts to suppress it by Southerners who hate lynching more than the Northern negro organizations hate it. It would be construed as a new declaration that the North means to coerce the South, strip it of the right of self-government, and tend to silence the civilized Southerners who, with increasing success, have denounced lynching more than fifty years.

The Northern negro associations are not especially concerned about lynching. The Wagner-Costigan bill is one part of their extended campaign for the enforcement of the Fifteenth amendment and the passage of a federal civil rights bill such as they have gotten from the Democrats in Pennsylvania. These negroes are men of vision and they are enlisted in no petty campaign. They look to the future.

DETROIT, MICH.
NEWS

JUN 19 1936

Congressional Fraud

The House gesture toward action on the Gavagan Anti-Lynching bill, one of 30 or more such bills pigeonholed in the Judiciary Committee, bears all the earmarks of a conscienceless fraud.

For obvious reasons legislation of this sort is earnestly desired by the Negro population, not only in the South but in the North, where Negroes have the vote and are politically important. The question has been active in Congress for years but action on it has been blocked, at least once through an outright filibuster, by southern Democratic senators and congressmen.

However, with a national election coming on, it evidently would be in the interest of northern Democrats, at least, to make some show of seeking enactment of an anti-lynching measure, even though its actual enactment would be impossible in a Congress controlled by southern Democrats.

Gavagan is a Tammany Democrat from New York and his bill seems to have been selected for purposes of this demonstration. A petition was introduced in the House to discharge the Judiciary Committee from further consideration of this bill and, ostensibly, to force it to a vote.

We say "ostensibly," for, while it now is announced the petition has been filled with the requisite number of signatures, its completion somehow was so delayed that under the House rules a vote could not be had unless Congress should remain in session until mid-July. Otherwise both the bill and the petition will die with the present Congress.

The filling of the petition was announced by Rep. Gavagan, who called it "a great triumph in the House Democratic fight for action."

We would call it something else.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
STATES

JUN 16 1936

Antilynching Law

WE HAVE recently been forecasting that the increase of lynching in the South, with many flagrant and inexcusable outbreaks of mob violence, would again force the federal antilynching bill back on the floor of one or the other branches of Congress.

The forecasts have not been wrong. Yesterday Representative GAVAGAN of New York, author of such a bill, announced that the requisite number of 218 signatures had been obtained to compel the return of his bill by the judiciary committee which has been refusing to act on it.

The measure would make sheriffs and other peace officers failing to protect their prisoners, as well as persons participating in lynchings, subject to prosecution in federal courts. Another feature of the bill would make communities in which lynchings occur responsible for the indemnification of the families of the victims.

* * *

THE Black Legion in Michigan is properly

I to be designated a secret lynching society, and it may be that its atrocious, cold-blooded execution of one POOLE, all the horrible details of which have been confessed by some of the perpetrators, has led to the addition of the necessary number of signatures to bring out the GAVAGAN bill. But whether this is true or not, the naked fact is that the antilynching bill is back on the floor.

We do not believe that there is any chance of the passage of the measure in the few remaining days of this session. But, with the certainty that the Democratic majority in both houses is to be lessened after the November elections, it may be taken as a surety that the GAVAGAN or some other bill will be before Congress next year and that Southern senators and representatives will have one of their greatest fights and need much assistance outside of this section to prevent its adoption.

The time is here for a supreme effort on the part of Southern communities to work with the officers of the law to curtail the unnecessary number of lynchings in the South.

PINE BLUFF, ARK.
COMMERCIAL

MAY 16 1936

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

If Senator Borah were somewhat younger and less experienced in the ways of politics, the public might overlook his apparent disillusionment as evidenced by his hot denunciation of his opponents in New York, Illinois and Ohio. His charge that the Republican leaders are hypocritical and intellectually dishonest cannot be based upon any new or recently discovered facts. The probability is that Senator Borah is feeling the sting so sharply because he is the victim.

The complaint is that Mr. Taft, Governor Landon and Colonel Knox profited by Mr. Borah's long and vigorous stand against the anti-lynching bill. The Borah opposition were not slow to let an opportunity pass to arouse Negro voters against the senator because of this. One result, of course, was that the Negro vote in the Illinois, Ohio, and New York primaries went largely against Borah. Says the senator:

The Republican party will go into the campaign laying great stress upon constitutional integrity and the preservation of states' rights. The men who control the party and who will likely be in control of the convention, write its platform and name its candidate have already demonstrated that they care nothing about constitutional integrity. In New York, Illinois and in Ohio, for the purpose of securing the votes of the colored people, they have advocated a measure which strikes at the very heart of state sovereignty, and if adopted would utterly destroy the fundamental principle of our dual sovereignty of government.

Doubtless the platform of the Cleveland convention will have much in it about the preservation of the Constitution and the rights of the states. There will be much said about the great debt of gratitude the people owe to the Supreme Court for its decision in the NRA and the AAA cases, and protecting the integrity of the states. And yet the so-called anti-lynching bill is in contravention to every principle announced in these decisions.

Of course, Senator Borah is absolutely right. He has the situation summed up to the nth degree. The anti-lynching bill violates every theory of states' rights, just as the Force Bill and the Civil Rights Bill did 40 years ago. But in those days the Republican party stood for centralization of power. It ridiculed the rights of the states. It contended that the Civil War had wiped the idea out.

The Republican party was powerful in those days. It was arrogant. Now it is in a hopeless drift. What difference does it mawes to the Republican leadership if by advocating states' rights on the one hand and denouncing it on the other it can pick up the support of a voting group here and there? The objective is the victory in November, not the support of a principle.

Senator Borah has been knocking around too long not to know this.

—*Commercial Appeal.*

EXPERT EDITORIAL OPINION

Should an anti-lynching law be passed? Can one be passed within the framework of the United States Constitution?

For the benefit of any who may not have formed or expressed an opinion on this very live issue, we are pleased to offer expert opinions, pro and con on the subject.

In this corner (left) is what the Morning Tennessean of Monday, May 18 says in opposition to the passage of a federal anti-lynching law.

In the other corner (right) the Chicago Tribune of May 15 offers at least equally as strong reasons why such a law si constitutional.

We recommend that both opinions be read and in addition it would not be bad to read the United States Constitution itself to see if there is a prohibition against passing laws against lynching, kidnapping and other forms of gangsterism as have brought this country into disgrace in the eyes of the civilized world.

Each reader should form his own opinion as to the soundness of the logic in both editorials as well as the power of the United States to see to it that each state guarantees to all of its citizens the equal protection of the law.

ANTI-LYNCHING STRATEGY

(Nashville Tennessean)

The supporters of federal anti-lynching legsilation are making a serious mistake in undertaking to push a bill through at this stage of the session.

Such legislation is of a highly contraversial nature and should be put to a vote only after the most exhaustive consideration. The effort seeks to take advantage of the general sentiment against lynching legislation are making and, perhaps, unconstitutional method of dealing with it.

Whenever the federal government begins to invade the rights of the states, especially in matters of a regional nature, as the lynching evil is regarded, it is undertaking something whose end is not in sight. If northern lawmakers succeed in putting through a federal anti-lynching bill, a precedent would be set for federal interference of every kind, and the only hope against eventual and complete domination of the states would be the conviction that such a law would be declared unconstitutional by the courts.

The lynching problem is not a federal one. Such crimes are usually committed in the community where the mob's victim lives and in which he has committed the offense which aroused its passions. From beginning to end. a lynching is a local affair.. We know from experience with the national prohibition amendment that national laws are regarded with little if any greater respect than state laws, if they are not supported by public sentiment. There is no reason to believe a federal anti-lynching bill could be enforced more effectively in communities where it was unpopular than were the federal dry laws where these acts were not supported by the majority of public sentiment.

Great progress has been made in the fight on mob-rule without federal legislation. Though there have been setbacks some years, the record shows a startling reduction in lynchings in this country. It were far better that this progress continue as heretofore, through the encouragement of local sentiment against mob-rule than to undertake to force upon the country a law of undoubtful constitutionality that might encourage in the mind of the would-be criminal the erroneous idea that the government had acted, in some mysterious way, to guarantee him against violence from an enraged society. We want, in this connection, no such reign of uncertainty and lawlessness as that which swept the country while national prohibition was on the statute books.

The supporters of this type of legislation are undertaking to force it through during the last three weeks of the present session, while many important and even essential bils are yet to be disposed of. They are attempting to embarrass opposing congressmen n election year. Yet the fact is hat many members who are violently opposed to every form of mob rule cannot conscientiously vote for a federal anti-lynching bill because they know such a law, nstead of providing the remedy ought, would only increase the lifficulties that stand in the way f ultimate solution.

LEGISLATION AGAINST LYNCHING

(Chicago Tribune)

Senator Borah attributes his defeat in the Ohio presidential primary in part to his candid opposition to a federal law to punish lynchers. No Republican, says the senator, can consistently favor anti-lynching legislation. The Republican platform will unquestionably demand full adherence to the constitution, and how, then, he asks, can the same platform and the same party favor an anti-lynching bill?

Mr. Borah assumes that such a bill would violate the constitution. He argues that the punishment of crimes of violence is a local concern, to be handled under state law in the state courts. In general, of course, that is true, but for the purposes of his argument. Mr. Borah has conveniently forgotten the civil war and the amendments to the constitution which were born of that struggle. These amendments were intended primarily to establish and safeguard the civil and political rights of Negroes. It was well understood that the south would not voluntarily raise the Negro to the full stature of an American citizen. He would be held back and held under if it were at all possible to do so.

"Nor shall any state," says the fourteenth amendment, "deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." There are teeth in the amendment, for it provides at another point that "the congress shall have the power to enforce by appropriate legislation the provisions of this article."

In face of these provisions, Mr. Borah is hardly justified in denouncing anti-lynching legislation as patently unconstitutional. He cannot pretend that there is no more authority for a congressional act to punish lynching than there was authority for NRA or AAA. It may be true, as he believes, that the Supreme court will say that the acts of lynchers are not acts of the states where the lynchings take place and are therefore not subject to federal legislation under the fourteenth amendment, but certainly there would be no such violent wrenching of the constitution in an anti-lynching bill as was apparent in NRA, for example. The federal constitution at no point suggests that congress has a right to enact appropriate legislation for regulating the sale of chickens. The men who made the fourteenth amendment were thinking of the wrongs which had been done to Negroes and were aiming to right them against all subsequent efforts to persecute black men.

It does not follow, of course that any anti-lynching bill, however drawn, would be constitutional, but it also does not follow that no anti-lynching bill can be valid. The legislation must be "appropriate." Mr. Borah seems to think that no legislation against lynching can be appropriate. That is a large assumption.

Lynchings - 1936
Legislation Relating to.

5408

WASHINGTON, D. C.
HERALD

MAY 30 1936

FORCED VOTE LOOMS ON ANTI-LYNCH BILL

By ARTHUR HACHTEN

The Senate probably will be forced to go on record on the highly controversial Wagner-Costigan antilynching bill, it developed yesterday.

Senator Clark, (D.), of Missouri, disclosed he would offer the measure as an amendment to the pending 2,369 million dollar deficiency bill, which carries 1,425 millions for relief.

MOVE TO FORCE VOTE

Clark's strategy was revealed as the Senate was in the thick of a fight to attach the Passamaquoddy tide-harnessing experiment and the Florida ship canal project as amendments to the deficiency bill.

By a vote of 53 to 21, the Senate held the Robinson resolution was in order as an amendment. The resolution authorizes President Roosevelt to appoint boards to study the Quoddy and Florida projects and if their reports are favorable to draw from relief funds for their continuation.

Then followed a drive by Senator Vandenberg (R.), of Michigan, and others to defeat the Robinson amendment on the ground both projects are "indefensible economically."

Expectations were that Senator Clark's attempt to offer the antilynching bill as an amendment would be held out of order. In that event he will appeal from the decision of the presiding officer, thereby forcing a vote by the Senate.

BOARD HOLDS KEY

Under the Quoddy-Florida canal amendment, the proposed board would have to report to the President not later than July 20. If the board, appointed by the President without Senate confirmation, reported favorably, the executive could use 10 million dollars of the Work Relief fund in the bill for continuation of work on the Florida canal and million dollars for Quoddy.

Earlier, Senator Hatch (D.), of New Mexico, presiding, ruled in order and amendment stipulating the entire cost of any project constructed from work relief funds must be allocated from the 1,425-million fund.

That would prevent the President from launching projects with a "down payment" from relief funds making it necessary for Congress later to appropriate more money, it was pointed out.

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197 Congressmen Sign for Action on Antimob Bills

21 More Names Will Release Measures from Committee.

LITTLE HOPE SEEN IN THIS CONGRESS

Kentuckian Censures Democrats' Inertia.

WASHINGTON. — Up to Friday night, 197 Congressmen had signed a petition calling for the release of Federal anti-lynching bills from the House judiciary committee.

The bills have been buried in the committee since the spring of 1935, without any action being taken on them. The chairman of the judiciary committee, Hatton W. Sumners (Dem., Texas), is reported to have made the statement that no antilynching bill would come up for consideration as long as he had anything to say about it.

The petition to release the bills from the committee requires 218 signatures and it is expected that the required number will be secured before adjournment.

The machinery of Congress was geared to bring about an early adjournment but the death of Speaker Joseph W. Byrns has delayed everything. This means there is still a small chance for consideration of the antilynching bill. Supporters of this legislation are leaving no stone unturned and are working up to the very last minute of Congress.

12 Committeemen Sign

Among the signers of the petition to discharge the judiciary committee are twelve members of the committee itself, half of the whole committee. Two of the chief workers for getting signatures to the petition are Congressmen Gavagan of New York and McKeough of Illinois.

Robsion Urges Passage

The antilynching bill fight occasioned some fireworks during the past week when Congressman John W. Robsion (Rep., Ky.) delivered a speech urging the legislation and severely criticizing the Democrats for failing to take some action on it. While his speech was first of all all a partisan one, he did place valuable and important statistics and sentiments in the record.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
June 3, 1936

NEGRO SECRETARY ATTACKS BYRNES

Carolinian Criticised for Refusal to Order Hearing on Van Nuys Resolution

Washington, June 2.—Special: On account of his refusal to report a resolution calling for an investigation of lynchings, Senator James F. Byrnes was attacked in the New York ~~Times~~ today by Walter White, negro secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who says:

"One senator, James F. Byrnes, of South Carolina, whose state since 1882 has staged 180 lynchings, has, as chairman of the senate audit and control committee, refused to even permit a hearing by that committee on senate resolution 211, the Van Nuys resolution to investigate the lynchings of 1935 after the filibuster against the Costigan-Wagner bill. He has done this since February 11, when the senate judiciary committee favorably reported the resolution."

The fact is that Senator Byrnes did hold a hearing on the lynching resolution some weeks ago, but the arguments for the expenditure of money for such an investigation did not impress him or his colleague on the committee, Senator Bachman of Tennessee, and the other members being absent, the Van Nuys resolution has not been reported to the senate.

The South Carolina senator takes the position that there is no need for a senatorial committee "running over the South investigating lynchings", and he does not approve of summoning Southern law enforcement officers to Washington to testify as to these matters. He believes that nothing new can be learned as to why lynchings take place and that any interference by the federal government will do more harm than good. Like other Southern senators he regards the problem as one for the states to handle.

Byrnes has been subjected to tremendous pressure to report out the lynching investigation resolution and during the closing days of the session a motion will probably be made to discharge his committee. This will bring the fight to the floor of the senate and may delay adjournment if Southern senators decide to filibuster against the resolution. A filibuster by Southern senators at the last session kept the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill from reaching a vote.

There are now pending before the house judiciary committee no less than thirty bills dealing with lynchings and proposing federal interference.

The negro White recently attacked Byrnes's position on the lynching investigation resolution in a letter to Arthur Mitchell, negro Democratic congressman from Illinois, which letter and Mitchell's reply were printed in the Congressional Record. White expressed doubt as to whether "pressure upon Senator Byrnes" would be "sufficiently helpful to get him to change his attitude any time soon".

In reply, the negro congressman wrote to White: "If I am to believe your statement that the only thing that keeps the VanNuy's resolution from being passed in the senate is the opposition of Senator Byrnes, I can't help but conclude that the quickest way to get effective federal action against lynching is to push that resolution, putting the proper pressure upon Senator Byrnes, not only through white women voters from the state of South Carolina, but through others who have influence with him".

Asked if he had received any "pressure" from South Carolina for the VanNuy's resolution, Byrnes said he had not, and remarked that he resented the implication that people of South Carolina, especially white women, would support the Association for the Advancement of Colored People in its efforts to pass a federal anti-lynching law.

K. F. M.

Clifton Forge, Va., Review
May 13, 1936

ANTI - LYNCHING BILL DELAYED IN CONGRESS

Washington, May 13.—The administration leadership in the Senate decided yesterday that the antilynching bill could not be taken up at this session of Congress.

The efforts of Senator Copeland to bring the measure up for consideration was met with the reply from Senator Robinson, of Arkansas, that the bill had been discussed a "great many days" last session and "I am satisfied it will not be practicable to take it up again at the present session."

Senator Copeland said he believed the bill ought to be voted upon by the Senate "regardless of its fate." He said he had been receiving "insistent demands that something be done on the bill."

"Regardless of how I feel personally," Mr. Copeland said, "'I believe it is only right that before the end of this session there should be an opportunity to vote on a measure as important as this."

The suggestion of Senator Lewis that a special time be set for consideration of the bill, brought a "no" from Senator Smith, who was a leader in a filibuster against the measure last session.

Mr. Robinson then joined Senators McKellar and King in their motion that the measure be passed over.

Greenville. S. C. News
June 3, 1936

Byrnes Assailed By Negro For Stand On Lynching Bill

New York Times Prints Letter From Secretary Of S. A. C. P.

The News Bureau, 1054 Press Building.
By Leased Wire.

By WALTER BROWN

WASHINGTON, June 2.—(AP)—Because of his refusal to report from the Senate committee on audit and control a resolution calling for an investigation of lynchings, Senator James F. Byrnes is the subject of an attack made in The New York Times today by Walter White, negro secretary of the National Association For the Advancement of Colored People.

Writing to the editor of The New York Times, White said Congress was dodging the issue of federal anti-lynching legislation.

ATTACKS BYRNES

"One senator—James F. Byrnes, of South Carolina, whose state since 1882 has staged 180 lynchings—has, as chairman of the Senate Audit and Control committee, refused to even permit a hearing by that committee on S. R. 211, the Van Nuys resolution to investigate the lynchings of 1935 after the filibuster against the Costigan-Wagner bill. He has done this since February 11, when the Senate Judiciary committee favorably reported the resolution."

White is in error about a hearing being held but he is correct as to the rest of his facts. Senator Byrnes held a hearing on the lynching resolution some weeks ago, but because the arguments for the expenditure of money for such an investigation did not impress him or his colleague on the committee, Senator Nathan Bachman, of Tennessee, the other members being absent, the Van Nuys resolution has not been reported to the Senate.

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218 in House Sign Petition to Force Vote On Bringing Out Anti-Lynching Bill

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

New York Times
New York N.Y.
6-15-36

WASHINGTON, June 15.—A parade of members, some of whom were said to believe there was no possible chance for action at this session, marched to the well of the House late today to sign a petition to discharge the Judiciary Committee from further consideration of the Gavagan Anti-Lynching Bill. When the bill had cleared, the 218 signatures needed to force a vote on the proposal had been affixed.

Under the rules of the House, a vote on a discharge petition can only be had on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, and seven legislative days must intervene after the signatures are obtained before the prescribed voting day. Thus, a vote could not be had on the discharge petition before Monday, July 13.

Mr. Gavagan was jubilant and threatened to force a vote next Monday, which would be the fourth this month, until he was informed that seven legislative days could not elapse before then.

The bill would make officers responsible for safe protection of prisoners, and counties in which mob violence occurred liable of from $2,000 to $10,000.

Fines of not more than $5,000 and imprisonment for not more than five years, or both, could be imposed upon officials who neglected or refused to protect prisoners against mob violence.

Southern Representatives and many others are opposed to the Gavagan measure. It was the belief today that, should Congress still be in session on July 13, opponents would defeat the proposal on a record vote.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.
TIMES UNION

JUN 17 1936

Anti-Lynching Bill Up.

The Gavagan anti-lynching bill, designed to end by Federal agencies the illegal slaying of colored persons in the South, is likely to be brought up at least for discussion before Congress adjourns. The bill has been in the Judiciary Committee of the House for months, with little hope of action, but acting under a Congressional rule, 218 members have signed the petition to discharge the committee from its consideration, and submit the bill to the House for discussion. This is equivalent to a demand for action, but under the rules the bill will not be submitted to the House before July 13.

The measure is so manifestly just and so obviously needed that the true sentiment of the country—at least north of the Mason and Dixon line—demands its passage. Under its provisions, State and county officials entrusted with the custody of negro prisoners are made responsible to the Federal Government for the adequate protection of such likely victims of mob violence; counties in which such violence occurs are liable to penalties of from $2,000 to $10,000 for each such offense, while officials who neglect or refuse such protection would be liable to a fine of not more than $5,000 each, or imprisonment for five years, or both.

If enacted and enforced, such a measure would go far to wipe out the worst stain on the civilization of the United States. There is, however, only a slim possibility that the bill can be enacted. The enormous weight of southern Democratic opposition will be brought to bear against it, and there are many northern Democrats who will vote that way too.

But in the unlikely event of its passage, the bill will be bitterly fought on the ground of unconstitutionality. When Senator William E. Borah ran in the recent primaries in the various States seeking the Presidential nomination, he was confronted with the strenuous opposition in Illinois and Ohio, for instance, of the great bulk of the colored Republican vote. This was because of his known opposition to the anti-lynching bill. His explanation that he sympathized with the object of the measure, but could not support it because he deemed it unconstitutional, did not weigh with the colored voters, and it was to their opposition, in Ohio at least, that Mr. Borah attributed his overwhelming defeat.

The constitutional point raised against the bill is that the anti-lynching measure is an invasion of the rights of the States to establish, maintain and administer their own systems of criminal law. The tendency of recent U. S. Court decisions, all tend toward strengthening and upholding the reserve powers of the State. If that tendency continues, and with no change in the court personnel in sight it should, the fate of the anti-lynching bill would seem to be settled in advance.

JOURNAL
& Guide
Norfolk Va

JUN 6 - 1936

Another Setback

ONCE again a Congressional leader from the South, in the wake of an unprecedented wave of mob violence, has successfully thwarted, at least temporarily, the passage of the much-needed COSTIGAN-WAGNER anti-lynching measure.

This time, Senator KENNETH D. MCKELLAR, of Tennessee, whose voiced boomed among the loudest during the filibuster to defeat the bill last year, threw a stumbling block in the way of possible last-minute consideration of the law by the Senate. When it was reached Monday on the Senate's call of consent calendar, Senator MCKELLAR, true to the traditions of his section, rose to object.

Senator MCKELLAR'S actions followed closely those of Senate Majority Leader ROBINSON of Arkansas, who several weeks ago flatly stated that the measure could not be considered this session and the political subterfuge of Congress last week when a caucus was dodged by the old "no quorum" trick.

But weary supporters of the bill still have hope. And strangely enough, the hope comes from quarters avowedly "anti" everything that the bill's supporters stand for.

From the present investigation of the after-dark terroristic activities of the nefarious Black Legion, these leaders predict, may come forth new sentiment and public opinion that will force dilly-dallying Congressmen to give immediate consideration of federal means to forestall all mob violence and mob law.

There is irony in the fact that the Senate Audit Committee since February has neglected to approve an appropriation of $7,500 to investigate lynchings, most victims of which are black men, but from all present indications $100,000 will be allotted to investigate the Black Legion, whose victims, as far as is presently known, are white.

From the appropriation of a huge investigation fund to the passage of some law, if not the COSTIGAN-WAGNER measure, to smash mob rule and spirit in America, is not a step beyond the imagination.

Perhaps the gentlemen who coined the old saying, "It's an ill wind that blows no good," knew what he was talking about.

Lynchings - 1936
Legislation Relating to.

5409

KANSAS CITY, MO.
TIMES

MAY 20 1936

Insincerity on Antilynching.

At odd moments and convenient intervals for the last fifteen years certain elements in congress have played with an antilynching proposal, mainly for political effect. With a presidential campaign at hand and with votes to be sought on every conceivable basis, the present is naturally regarded as a favorable season for a stirring of the question anew. Accordingly a bloc of house members has petitioned for a caucus on it and several senators are demanding action, although there is not the barest chance that anything will be done.

Every conscientious citizen of the country is opposed to mob violence. There is no difference of opinion on that matter, in congress or out. Nor is the issue a partisan question, except as it may be made so—again for political purposes. As to federal legislation which would hold officers of the law or local communities responsible for nonprevention of lynchings, this is mainly a question of constitutionality. It seems to be the prevailing opinion in congress that law enforcement of this character is primarily if not wholly the responsibility of the states.

Southern members of congress especially have opposed the legislation on that ground, although in recent years they repeatedly have sanctioned other legislation that violated the same principle.

While no federal enactment is to be expected for years, if at all, the condition will not go by default. Within the present century mob violence has been steadily and effectively combated by public sentiment as by law enforcement. It is an evil that may persist for years to come, but in a vastly diminished volume. It finally can be stamped out by exercise of the same forces that have been operative in the recent past.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
HERALD-TRIBUNE

MAY 23 1936

Making Lynching Expensive

The Congress ~~which will~~ soon take its place in legislative history will echo the country's sigh of relief when adjournment comes. It has not had a happy time. One perennial source of uneasiness—in addition to the nightmares engendered by the New Deal—has been the agitation for a Federal anti-lynching law. True, the Costigan-Wagner bill seems to be dead for this session in the Senate, and Washington thinks a House caucus to consider about thirty bills on the same subject will be equally unproductive. But these are temporary respites for members who must seek re-election in November in districts where lynching is not considered as important as resisting Federal encroachment unless accompanied by large grants from the United States Treasury.

A possible solution of the whole difficulty appears in the verdict of a white jury in a Federal court in Louisiana. In what is described as the first decision of the kind on record, $2,500 was awarded to parents of a Negro who had been lynched, and the Sheriff and his surety were held accountable. There would seem to be no reason why the verdict of this Louisiana jury cannot be cited as a precedent in any state where a prisoner in the actual or constructive custody of the Sheriff is murdered by a mob, and the prospect of having to pay substantial damages will be likely to make that officer a more careful and resolute custodian. In 1935 twenty persons were lynched—five more than in 1934. Thirteen were in the hands of the law when killed; five were taken from jails. One was lynched while a jury deliberated as to whether or not he was guilty. Is it unreasonable to believe that if the Sheriff had a financial interest in the safety of his prisoner that individual's chance of survival would thereby be improved?

MEMPHIS, TENN.
Commercial Appeal

MAY 16 1936

The Anti-Lynching Bill

If Senator Borah were somewhat younger and less experienced in the ways of politics, the public might overlook his apparent disillusionment as evidenced by his hot denunciation of his opponents in New York, Illinois and Ohio. His charge that the Republican leaders are hypocritical and intellectually dishonest cannot be based upon any new or recently discovered facts. The probability is that Senator Borah is feeling the sting so sharply because he is the victim.

The complaint is that Mr. Taft, Governor Landon and Colonel Knox profited by Mr. Borah's long and vigorous stand against the anti-lynching bill. The Borah opposition were not slow to let an opportunity pass to arouse negro voters against the senator because of this. One result, of course, was that the negro vote in the Illinois, Ohio and New York primaries went largely against Borah. Says the senator:

> The Republican party will go into the campaign laying great stress upon constitutional integrity and the preservation of states' rights. The men who control the party and who will likely be in control of the convention, write its platform and name its candidate have already demonstrated that they care nothing about constitutional integrity. In New York, Illinois and in Ohio, for the purpose of securing the votes of the colored people, they have advocated a measure which strikes at the very heart of state sovereignty, and if adopted would utterly destroy the fundamental principle of our dual sovereignty of government.
>
> Doubtless the platform of the Cleveland convention will have much in it about the preservation of the Constitution and the rights of the states. There will be much said about the great debt of gratitude the people owe to the Supreme Court for its decision in the NRA and the AAA cases, and protecting the integrity of the states. And yet the so-called anti-lynching bill is in contravention to every principle announced in these decisions.

Of course, Senator Borah is absolutely right. He has the situation summed up to the nth degree. The anti-lynching bill violates every theory of states' rights, just as the Force Bill and the Civil Rights Bill did 40 years ago. But in those days the Republican party stood for centralization of power. It ridiculed the rights of the states. It contended that the Civil War had wiped the idea out.

The Republican party was powerful in those days. It was arrogant. Now it is in a hopeless drift. What difference does it make to the Republican leadership if by advocating states' rights on the one hand and denouncing it on the other it can pick up the support of a voting group here and there? The objective is the victory in November, not the support of a principle.

Senator Borah has been knocking around too long not to know this.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.
EAGLE

MAY 21 1936

Democrats in House To Study Lynch Law

Washington, May 21 (AP)—A Democratic House caucus was called today for tomorrow night to discuss anti-lynching legislation. The party meeting was forced by a petition signed by 27 members, two more than necessary.

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M.
TRIBUNE

MAY 19 1936

Public Forum

PRAISES TRIBUNE STAND ON ANTI LYNCHING BILL

Editor Triune:

I have been authorized by the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to send this communication endorsing and commending most highly your editorial of recent date, "The 'G' Way for Lynchers"

Those who have been disposed to condone lynchings, on the ground that they protect womanhood, are ignorant of the very pertinent fact, that of the 5000 persons lynched in the past 30 years, less than 30 per cent have even been accused of crimes against womanhood.

Those who have been disposed to see in Federal anti-lynching legislation, an invasion of states' sovereignty or states' rights, should be advised that the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, now pending before Congress, leans over backwards in its observance of states' rights.

Gives State 30 Days

It provides that the Federal Government shall not interfere until the state has had 30 days to apprehend and bring to justice mob murderers. This bill has been endorsed by organizations representing 42 million Americans from every section of the nation.

This great country cannot assume a place of moral leadership in the world until the lynching evil is wiped out. Recently when our State Department took occasion to criticize Nazi-Germany's persecution of German-Jews, the Nazi press immediately slapped back with the statement that a country with America's lynching record could ill afford to criticize Nazi-Germany.

Can It Boast?

If, or when, a mob victim is of unquestioned guilt, can any community boast that it has bettered itself by eradicating one criminal, at the cost of creating scores of others guilty of violating one of the constitution's most sacred guarantees, the right of trial by jury?

The enlightened press of the nation, that recognizes in lynching a threat that strikes at the very root of liberty and justice, has fought for adequate Federal legislation to curb this horrible evil.

It has been particularly gratifying to the local association composed of more than a hundred white and colored persons, and to liberty and justice loving Americans of this community to note that The Tribune has been consistently in the vanguard of this enlightened group.

Yours very truly,
HOBART L. LA GRONE.

WILMINGTON, DEL.
Eve. Journal-Every Eve'g.

APR 20 1936

Stewart Asked To Support Bill

Congressman Requested To Help in Passage Of Anti-Lynching Measure

Representative J. George Stewart has received a letter from Jefferson S. Coage, Washington, D. C., formerly recorder of deeds in Washington, and a native of this city, urging the support by the local representative of the Anti-Lynching Bill.

The letter fotllows:

Before the adjournment of the present Congress the friends of the Anti-Lynching Bill hope to have the measure brought before the House for passage. This bill has the prayers and support of twelve millions of loyal Afro-Americans.

"May I call your attention to the fact that of the fifty thousand Negroes living in the state of Delaware this bill has the unanimous support.

"The Negro churches, fraternal organizations, and civic bodies all over the country, backed by the National Association of Colored Peoples, are in favor of the passage of this legislation.

"This bill has been before the American Congress several times. The party now in power can pass the bill if they desire or they can defeat it.

"Whatever its fate may be at the hands of this Congress, may I assure you that every Negro Delawarean, and the Negroes of the other states at-large, are expecting Delaware's representtive in Congress to be among the first to vote for its passage.

"If perchance you should have any misgivings as to the constitutionality of this bill, we beg of you to assume the same role that the administration has in respect to other measures—pass the bill and permit the United States Court to function

"In this cause of civic righteousness, your vote for this measure will align you in company with millions of liberty loving Americans who believe in law and order, regardless of race, creed, or color.

"If for any reason assigned by its opponents this bill fails to be reported out of the committee, we respectively request that you use your good offices in having the necessary number (218) of congressmen to sign a petition discharging the committee and have the bill brought before the House for action.

"This legislation will surely be a new deal for the Afro-American, and we earnestly hope, and fervently pray that your support and vote will be in the affirmative."

Raleigh, N. C. Observer
May 23, 1936

Anti-Lynching Campaign Strikes Snag in Caucus

All Tar Heels Absent Except Umstead; Lack of Quorum Averts Showdown

The News and Observer Bureau,
1232 National Press Building.

By ROBERT E. WILLIAMS.

Washington, May 22. — Every member of the North Carolina delegation except Representative William B. Umstead tonight absented himself from the Democratic caucus which was called to discuss anti-lynching legislation, but which ended abruptly through pre-arranged plans because of lack of a quorum.

Representative Umstead was one of the few Southerners present. Many Democrats from other sections of the country joined in boycotting the caucus.

Immediately after the caucus met, it took on the aspect of a farce. Representative John Rankin, of Mississippi, blocked all proceedings at the outset by a point of order that no quorum was present. The roll call showed only 64 present, less than half the number required for a quorum.

But opponents of the anti-lynching bill were then in a quandary. There is nothing that less than a quorum can do except to adjourn. But a majority of those present can block that. Two motions to adjourn were voted down. But even the proponents of the anti-lynching bill became worried. They permitted the third motion to adjourn to be adopted.

Avoid Fight.

In this way, the Democratic membership in the House not only avoided any expression of any kind on the lynching question, but also avoided an open fight at a time when Democrats are anxious to prevent any breaks within their ranks, which now include many Negro voters.

Democratic leaders were very reluctant to have the matter discussed in a party caucus and did everything they could to discourage the movement for a caucus. But under the rules, the signatures of any 25 Democrats of the House make a caucus mandatory. The necessary signatures were obtained last week and the meeting was called for tonight by Representative Edward T. Taylor, of Colorado, chairman of the caucus.

But there is nothing to require a Democrat to attend the caucus when called, and with many of the 315 Democrats in the House absent because of campaigns or for other reasons, Southern members decided the easiest way to block the proposition was to "break a quorum."

Under party rules, affirmative votes of two-thirds of those present are required to bind the party. But a majority of all members of the caucus, in this case 158, is required for any action at all. It was then decided that the easiest course was simply to persuade enough Democrats to stay away to prevent any discussion of the question.

The same procedure will be followed if further attempts are made to call a caucus on the 32 anti-lynching bills pending, none of which has ever received any attention at the hands of the House Judiciary Committee.

For the North Carolina delegation, "breaking a quorum" was a very simple matter tonight.

What would have been impossible would have been to muster a quorum. Of the eleven North Carolina members, only five were on the floor of the House today. Representative Bulwinkle, who has been ill for months, is still unable to attend sessions, and the other five were in the state, Representatives Clark and Doughton on speech-making missions and Representatives Barden, Hancock and Kerr busy with their renomination campaigns.

In fact, there would have been only four here today had not Representative Cooley rushed back from Raleigh because of plans to take up the vocational educational bill. However, the measure was carried over until next week.

Of the five who were here today, only Representative Weaver voted for the Mississippi River flood control bill, which left the Senate a $272,000,000 measure amended on the floor of the House so as to carry $380,000,000. It barely squeezed through the House by a vote of 162 to 156, with Representatives Cooley, Lambeth, Umstead and Warren voting against it.

The anti-lynching legislation is proposed at every session of Congress, but has come to a vote only once in House and Senate. Some years ago the House passed the then Dyer bill during a Republican administration and it was filibustered to death in the Senate. Last year an effort made in the Senate to consider the Wagner-Costigan bill, but the motion for consideration was filibustered to death by Southern Senators, with Senator Josiah W. Bailey taking a leading part in the debate.

This year efforts in the Senate have been concentrated on the Van Nuys resolution to investigate recent lynchings in the country. That resolution has been bottled up for weeks in the committee on audit and control, of which Senator James F. Byrnes, of South Carolina, is chairman, with no prospect of action by the committee.

Not By Negro.

The movement for a House caucus was not engineered by Representative Arthur Mitchell, of Illinois, the Negro Democratic member of the House. Mitchell, who has commanded the respect of all members of the House and whose recent speech in favor of the re-election of President Roosevelt was warmly applauded by all Democrats, including those from the South, has throughout his service adopted a conciliatory attitude. He claims, with abundant justification in the record, that his attitude of conciliation had accomplished far more for his race in jobs and other forms of recognition than the bellicose attitude of his Negro Republican predecessor, Representative Oscar De Priest.

The caucus was forced by the activities of two white Democrats, Representative Gavagan, of New York, and Ford, of California, both of whom have large numbers of Negroes in their districts.

The action has been demanded by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, with which Representative Mitchell is at odds. The entire membership of the House was today circularized by the association in a full page circular which called attention to 25 lynchings during the past year, including one in North Carolina, and carried a picture of them as well as reproduction of editorials in the various newspapers advocating passage of the law.

The circular was also signed by 21 other organizations including the Young Women's Christian Association, the Federal Council of Churches in Christ in America, the American Federation of Labor and the Women's Missionary Council of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

WILMINGTON, N. C
STAR NEWS

MAY 31 1936

UP TO THE STATES

(Charlotte Observer)

A Federal anti-lynching law ought not to be necessary. There ought not to be any demand for it. But it is entirely up to the States. If they will exercise their powers and deal efectively with lynching, there will be no Federal anti-lynching law. None will be needed and there will be no ground for demand for such Federal legislation.

But if the States will not or cannot prevent lynchings—and cannot or will not punish lynchings—then soner or later the Congress will pass a anti-lynching bill and it will be enforced.

The sentiment of the American people is decidedly opposed to lynching and sooner or later that sentiment will prevail to stop it—or at least to bring to justice and punish those who participate in mob murder. Every time a state permits a lynching and then never arrests a member of the mob, as was the case in the latest North Carolina lynching last August—it adds fuel to the fire of sentiment in Congress adn over the country as a whole for the enactment of Federal legislation to deal with the offense.

Either the States must deal effectively with the crime of lynching or the Federal government will. It is up to the States to make good on the assertions of Senators and Representatives in Congress that the States can handle the lynching problem. Nobody can argue that all of them have been doning it.

Lynchings-1936
Legislation Relating to.

5410

NEGRO AID SOUGHT IN BORAH CAMPAIGN

Fish Will Go to Chicago 'Congress' to Ask Support for Senator's Presidency Fight.

RADIO TALKS ALSO PLANNED

Attempt Will Be Made to Allay Opposition Due to Idahoan's Lynch Bill Stand.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—Friends of Senator Borah were planning an open appeal today to the Negro voters of the country in an effort to offset any opposition against his candidacy for the Presidency because of his views against Federal anti-lynching laws.

Hamilton Fish Jr., Eastern campaign manager for the Senator, proposed to appear at the National Negro Congress, to be held at Chicago Feb. 14 and 15, and to lay the record and the reasons for Mr. Borah's views before the recignized Negro leaders of the country.

Mr. Fish said that if he could not arrange for time to speak at the Chicago congress, he expected to be there anyway to do as much personal work as possible among the Negroes in the Senator's behalf. He added that he would go on the radio to spike the anti-Borah campaign which he said is gaining force, especially in States where Mr. Borah plans to enter preferential primaries.

While this step in behalf of the Senator is the first planned openly to attract or appease the Negro vote, the eyes of leaders of both major political parties, and particularly individual candidates for the Republican nomination, have been turned upon this element, now considered one of the most independent factors in American politics.

Will Center on Chicago Session.

For this reason attention will be centered chiefly on the Negro Congress, which, according to its sponsors, promises to be one of the largest and most representative meetings of racial leaders ever gather together in the United States. Its announced purpose is to unite the Negro organizations on a "program of security and manhood fo the Negroes in America," but it every action will be watched fo indications as to how the Negroe might go in the next election.

Whether the Negroes give any collective intimation as to wher they will stand as a group in the national contest, they are expecte to prepare a legislative program which they will ask of Congress This, at least, promises to presen to the country another of those organized minorities which can an do become telling factors in deciding the fate of national policies and politicians.

The Negroes are being urged t organize themselves because they, like none other of these groups, are solidified by economic self-interest and race as well. Leaders of the race see an opportunity for the Negroes to make themselves the balance of power in case of close election contests, national or local. At Chicago they are expected to urge the followers to hold themselves together as an independent group that may be thrown this way or that as best serves the economic and social aspirations of the colored people in America.

Say Many Aided Roosevelt.

Certain Negro spokesmen contend that the race already has demonstrated its willingness to forsake past prejudices and traditions and to follow other ideals. They hold that the lack of interest in the Negro as manifest by Republican administrations since that of President Taft has driven the colored vote into the Democratic ranks. President Roosevelt is thought to have polled more Negro votes in 1932 than Mr. Hoover and Alfred E. Smith obtained, if not a majority a close division, in the campaign of 1928.

The radical leaders have noted too, that up until now there has been no special effort of Republican leaders to return this vote to their fold. On the other hand, the Negroes have been attracted by the bids for support from the Democratic party organization generally and especially by local machines in the Northern and border States They claim, furthermore, to have fared better in party patronage favors lately than when they were strictly members of the traditional party of Lincoln, and they point to the fact that the one seat in the House held by a Negro has been changed from Republican to Democratic as partial proof of the belief that the Negro now feels free to make a new alignment.

Yet these Negro spokesmen are careful not to let it appear that the Negro can be counted upon definitely by the Democrats. They want to make his vote a coveted element, so that, like the veterans, abor, farmers and other minority groups, it can be thrown to the side of the candidate that promises the most in the way of economic and social adjustment.

If the Chicago Congress succeeds, according to the plans laid by its sponsors, it is not too much to expect that strong efforts will be made to write special planks into he Democratic and Republican platforms covering the attitude of each party toward the Negro and his welfare. Such a contingency might push the question of Negro uffrage further to the front than at any time since reconstruction days.

MONITOR
CONCORD, N. H.

N 30 1936

Borah Favors Lynching Law, Monitor Told

Opposed Bills in Last Session Because of Illegality

Senator William E. Borah of Idaho, prominently mentioned for the Republican nomination for president in the coming election, today informed the Monitor that while he opposed two anti-lynching bills in Congress last year, he was ready to give his support to any such measure which he considered constitutional.

In recent months Senator Borah has been assailed by Negro organizations and other groups for his opposition to the Dyer anti-lynching bill, and the Costigan measure, both of which would give the federal government authority to probe and prosecute lynchings in communities which government authorities felt did not take sufficient action against those responsible.

"I opposed these measures," Senator Borah informed the Monitor today "because they are clearly, in my judgment, in contravention to the plain terms of the constitution of the United States. I would be perfectly willing to support anti-lynching legislation provided such legislation was presented as we had power under the constitution to pass. But these bills were, in my judgment, so pronouncedly unconstitutional that I could not support them."

NORFOLK, VA.
LEDGER DISPATCH

JAN 30 1936

Mr. Borah on the Lynching Bill

While Senator Borah was speaking in Brooklyn the other night, several Negroes undertook to heckle him on the subject of his opposition to the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill. It is useless to go into all the details of the queries and answers on the part of the hecklers and Mr. Borah. In view of the fact that many of the best of our own colored people think this bill or some similar bill should be enacted, there is some use, we think, in outlining Mr. Borah's position.

He would favor, we understand, any *constitutional* Federal legislation designed to prevent or penalize lynching. But he is firmly convinced that such legislation as has been proposed would be unconstitutional and would be so declared. His judgment is based on the soundest possible ground, we think. Except in extraordinary circumstances, lynching is a crime against the state in which it is committed—just as murder is or arson or robbery or any other such crime. Any Federal legislation cannot make lynching a Federal crime—unless, of course, it is committed on a Federal reservation or unless some crossing of a state line or lines is involved. One of Mr. Borah's questioners asked him how [illegible] could approve wha[illegible] known as the Lindbergh law. His reply, and complete answer, was that the Lindbergh law, the Federal kidnaping act, was carefully drawn to apply only to cases in which the assumption of Federal jurisdiction could be justified.

Because the world moves so fast, it may be necessary to remind some of those who vehemently advocate a Federal anti-lynching law that it was necessary to amend the Constitution of the United States before Congress could attempt to prevent or punish the sale of liquor in the states.

If a Federal anti-lynching act ever would have been or would be declared constitutional, in the present temper of the Supreme Court such an act would not be worth the paper on which it was engrossed

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WASHINGTON, D. C
POST

FEB 1 1936

What Mr. Dixon Said.

To the Editor of The Post—Sir: Please allow me to correct a minor mistake in Mr. Franklyn Waltman's vivid and accurate report of the Macon convention which appeared in the "Politics and People" column of your issue of January 30.

The sentence which I would correct is: "He termed Mrs. Roosevelt's support of the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill as an infamous and outrageous insult to the people of the South."

I am a rapid, extemporaneous speaker and the reporter could, and did, easily misunderstand me. What I said was the Wagner-Costigan bill was an infamous insult to the people of the South and Mrs. Roosevelt's open lobbying for it was a most astounding performance, since the measure was introduced into Congress by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which I called the most dangerous Communist organization in America.

I made the point and reiterate it that Mrs. Roosevelt's advocacy of the Wagner-Costigan measure was a most astounding performance. But I am too much of an old-time Southerner to speak of any lady in the precise words attributed to me.

THOMAS DIXON.

Washington, Jan. 30.

New York Evening Post

FEB 5 1936

BILL TO PROBE LYNCHING WAVE GOES TO SENATE

ndianan Moves to Override Filibuster of Southerners

WAGNER-COSTIGAN MEASURE REPORTED

By a Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—A resolution providing for investigation o fourteen lynchings perpetrated i the South since May 1, 1935, wil be reported shortly by the Senat Judiciary Committee, it was revealed today.

The resolution was introduce shortly after Congress convened fo its present session by Senator Va Nuys of Indiana, enthusiastic backe of the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill.

It is an Nuys's intention to expose the events leading up to recen lynchings and the neglect and possible participation of local law enforcement officials. He hopes thu to demonstrate to the country th need for Federal legislation to cur murder by mobs.

Although the House once passe an anti-lynching bill, no such measure ~~has ever been~~ put to a vote i the Senate. During the last session, Southern Senators filibustere the Wagner-Costigan bill and force its withdrawal from consideration.

New Filibuster Likely

It is again on the Senate calendar but appears to have but slight chance for enactment at this session unless Van Nuys's investigation i authorized. Whether the Southerners will resort to a filibuster to block the investigation is not known.

The Judiciary Committee, which approved the Wagner-Costigan law last year, is certain to recommend adoption of the Van Nuys' resolution. It is understood that the subcommittee tentatively chosen to conduct the investigation includes Van Nuys as chairman and Senators Norris of Nebraska, Austin of Vermont, Neely of West Virginia and McCarran of Nevada.

The resolution would authorize the subcommitee to investigate:

(1) The facts and circumstances surrounding the lynchings which have occurred in the United States since May 1, 1935.

(2) The relation of such lynchings to other crimes and to the maintenance of law and order, and

(3) The action, if any, taken by the responsible public authorities to prevent such lynchings and to punish the persons guilty of committing such crimes.

The committee's report would have to be submitted by March 1 1936, in time to permit action o the Wagner-Costigan bill at this session of Congress. However, political as well as parliamentary hurdles will be put in its path this year.

Talmadge on Warpath

With Governor Eugene Talmadge of Georgia leading a revolt against the New Deal in Dixie, Southern Senators will argue that an election year is no time to arouse the wrath of their voting constituents by passing an anti-lynch law.

The Wagner-Costigan bill would make local officials answerable fo lynching in their jurisdictions an provide for their trials in Federa courts where State courts refuse to act. Neglect of duty on the par of these officials would be punishable by fine and imprisonment.

The bill also would permit families of lynch victims to institute civil suits in Federal courts to collect damages.

The principal argument raise against the bill is that it would invade the constitutional power of the States to do their own policing. Even Senator Borah of Idaho has subscribed to this doctrine.

Senate Lynching Investigation Deadlocked In Audit Committee; Sponsors Request Speedy Report

Age

3-7-36

New York

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The resolution providing for Senate investigation of the lynchings in 1935 which took place after May 1 is held in the Senate committee on audit by a deadlock vote, it became known here this week. The resolution already has been reported favorably by the judiciary committee, which recommended that the sum of $7,500 be allotted for the investigation. The audit committee has to approve this amount.

The audit committee consists of four senators. It is not known how each of them has voted on the resolution, but the members on the committee are Senators Millard Tydings of Maryland, John G Townsend of Delaware, Nathan L. Bachman of Tennessee, and James F. Byrnes, Jr. of South Carolina. Senator Byrnes is chairman.

There is a strong undercurrent in Washington trying to discourage all controversial subjects in this election year, so as to permit early adjournment of Congress and no embarrassment during the campaign.

Renewed and increased pressure is needed upon the White House, upon the audit committee, and upon individual senators, in order to make plain the deep concern of citizens that something concrete shall be done about lynching at this session of the Congress. Interested individuals and organizations are urged to write letters and send telegrams and resolutions to Washington.

Asks Speedy Report

On February 27 Senator Frederick Van Nuys and Senator Edward P. Costigan, who are pushing federal action against lynching, requested of Chairman Byrnes a speedy report on the resolution in his committee.

"It is understandable why some of the politicians in Washington do not wish to bring up controversial subjects this spring," said Walter White, N. A. A. C. P. secretary, "but these people underestimate the wide-spread resentment of the country to continued lynchings and to the inactivity of the federal government in checking mob violence.

An examination of the record of lynchings for 1935 will show that while there were 25 actual lynchings, a total of 97 cases involving 127 victims were reported. In addition to the recorded lynchings, there were six killings, now being investigated, which strongly resemble lynchings. There were 11 cases in which troops had to be called out to prevent lynchings, and there were 55 cases involving 85 people, where lynchings were prevented by additional guards, removal to other localities, etc. These statistics mean that the lynching spirit is wide-spread, and that the federal government cannot afford to continue ignoring it."

DAYTON, OHIO
NEWS

MAR 15 1936

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

To the Editor of The News:

With the approach of warm weather when crowds can gather in the streets we may anticipate with tragic certainty the resumption of lynching. The unusually severe weather which kept men and women indoors has brought about a temporary lull during the last few months, added to the fear while congress is in session, of the passage of federal anti-lynching legislation, should lynching break out.

Next summer when congress shall have adjourned and lynchings occur with frequency, editorial writers and others will be pointing out the necessity of federal legislation. May I be permitted to call attention, therefore, to what is happening at Washington? On Jan. 6, 1936, Senator Frederick Van Nuys of Indiana introduced a resolution for a senate investigation of the lynchings which occurred in 1935, following the senate filibuster against the Costigan-Wagner bill. The Van Nuys resolution provides for an investigation of the lynchings which occurred between May 1 and Dec. 31, 1935, with particular reference to the action or lack of action on the part of the various states to prevent these lynchings or to punish the lynchers.

The Van Nuys resolution was reported out favorably by the senate judiciary committee on Feb. 11. It then went to the senate committee on audit and control where it now rests. Senator James F. Byrnes of South Carolina declines to call a meeting of that committee to take action upon it. It is reported in Washington that the committee, consisting at present of four senators, is evenly divided on the resolution—Senator Byrnes and Nathan L. Bachman (of Tennessee) opposing favorable action, while Senators Millard E. Tydings (of Maryland) and John G. Townsend, jr., (of Delaware) favor.

Unless public opinion lets this committee, the White House and individual senators know it wants this resolution reported favorably, the resolution is going to be smothered in committee by the forces which oppose any corrective action against lynching. The tide of lynching is rapidly increasing against both white and Negro Americans, north as well as south. During 1935 there were 25 authenticated lynchings, and 102 instances of lynchings narrowly averted by the escape of the intended victim, augmenting of jail guards, removal of the prisoners, or by other means. Students of the question consider narrowly averted lynchings as serious as consummated ones, in that they show the presence of the lynching spirit. Who knows what man or woman, white or Negro, now alive and happy, may not be the next victim, unless Americans who oppose such anarchy let congress know that they must act before adjournment?

WALTER WHITE, Secretary.

National Association for the Advancement
of Colored People.
New York.

Lynchings-1936
Legislation Relating to.

5411

HOBOKEN, N. J.
OBSERVER

JAN 20 1936

A LYNCHING ILLUSTRATED.

We have received from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People a plea that the members of Congress be urged to vote for the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, which will be introduced following a filibuster in the last session of the Senate that killed the bill for the time being. Incidentally, it is pointed out that this filibuster was "led by a small group of Senators, most of them from the States with the worst lynching record."

It is difficult for us to conceive how any law-abiding American can oppose any such measure as this. It becomes increasingly difficult when we view the reproduction of a photograph that accompanies this plea. This is a grim picture of an actual lynching—a Negro hanged from a tree, his hands manacled, the noose apparently having cut through to the ears. Shocking? Yes! But that isn't all. Viewing the spectacle, and so close that an outstretched hand from any one of them could have touched the evidence of the lynchers' work, is a group—two men and a number of small children.

Regarding this, the following appears beneath the photograph: "Do not look at the Negro. His earthly problems are ended. Instead, look at the seven WHITE children who gaze at this gruesome spectacle. Is it horror or gloating on the face of the neatly dressed seven-year-old girl on the right? Is the tiny four-year-old on the left old enough, one wonders, to comprehend the barbarism her elders have perpetrated? Rubin Stacy, the Negro, who was lynched at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on July 19, 1935, for 'threatening and frightening a white woman,' suffered PHYSICAL torture for a few short hours. But what psychological havoc is being wrought in the minds of the white children? Into what kind of citizens will they grow up? What kind of America will they help to make after being familiarized with such an inhuman, law-destroying practice as lynching?"

Nothing need be added to the picture or the explanation. But it may be stated that after the filibuster against the last anti-lynching bill no less than fourteen lynchings occurred. Those who conducted the filibuster declared Federal action to be unnecessary to put a stop to this inhuman, law-destroying practice. Senator Van Nuys has introduced a resolution to investigate these fourteen lynchings. That is one way to put an end to such sinister outbreaks of fiendish passion. Meanwhile, if you abhor the practice in the way that the vast majority of Americans do, write your Senators and Congressmen to vote for the Costigan-Wagner bill.

Borah and the Negro Congress

New York N.Y.
Daily Worker

SENATOR BORAH, avowed enemy of all Federal anti-lynching laws, is licking his chops for the National Negro Congress!

7-22-36

His red-baiting campaign manager, Hamilton Fish, Jr., says he will appear at the Congress to win Negro support for Borah's presidency fight. The idea is to "explain away" his chief's opposition to federal laws designed to protect the Negro people against lynching.

Clearly the Republican bosses, rooted deep in Wall St., intend to make a political football out of the Negro Congress—and ride to the White House over the bodies of Negro lynch-victims.

Delegates from all Negro organizations—and sympathetic white groups—throughout the country should pack every session of the Congress. They alone can insure the adoption of a program against every form of discrimination and oppression and for adequate Federal anti-lynching legislation.

The Congress must be made a united and powerful instrument for the Negro people—not for the Borahs and Fishes.

WATERTOWN, N. Y.
TIMES

JAN 10 1936

SENATOR BORAH AND THE SOUTH.

Senator Borah's stand on the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill may become an issue in the pre-convention presidential campaign. The Idaho senator, it will be recalled, was one of the leading opponents of this measure when it came before the senate and it was due in no small measure to his opposition that the bill failed of passage.

Now that Senator Borah is being mentioned so prominently for the Republican presidential nomination, his position on the anti-lynching bill has been revived and has become a subject of considerable discussion. Strong opposition has developed to him among Negro Republicans of the North, especially in Illinois and Ohio, while in the South, for the same reason, he has become the most favored of the Republican possibilities.

This attitude on the part of the South is indicated by a recent editorial in the Charleston News and Courier, prominent South Carolina Democratic newspaper. Referring to the debate on the anti-lynching measure the News and Courier says: "When you were fighting that bill, designed to rob your people of the power to try a class of murder cases in their courts, Borah was voting with you—and your president was as silent in the White House as the night before Christmas . . . There was Old Borah with you, and all the Northern 'Democrats,' including a Kentuckian and a West Virginian, against you."

The News and Courier goes on to assert that the "Roosevelt national party is the national Negro party" and says that if its Southern readers are not favorable to this situation, their only hope lies in the help of Borah and more like him. In issues such as there is raised by the Wagner-Costigan bill the New Dealers will be against the South, asserts of The News and Courier. These New Dealers have the backing of the Negro voters in the Northern and border states and they do not propose to lose that support.

This is a rather unusual editorial to find in a newspaper published in the heart of the Old South. It may mean that Senator Borah, should he be the Republican nominee this fall, would receive unexpected support from the South. Certainly, whatever be the merits of the measure, the New Dealers did not help themselves in the states South of the Mason and Dixon line by their earnest advocacy of the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill.

[illegible] 3/16/36 [illegible]

BORAH AND THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

The writer of this column does not list himself among the admirers of Hon. Hamilton Fish, Jr., a member of Congress from New York, but one must commend him for his attitude toward Senator Borah.

As is well known, Senator Borah, admittedly a great constitutional lawyer, is opposed to the Federal Anti-Lynching Bill now before Congress. Senator Borah is also a candidate for the Republican nomination of President. Because of this fact some very cowardly and unfair attacks are being made on the Senator in the Negro press of the country. Some think these attacks are inspired from Democratic sources, but most likely these attacks are fostered by the Old Guard or reactionary politicians who control the Republican Party today, and who will be its pall-bearers in the Fall.

Mr. Fish, in a recent speech in the House of Representatives, called attention to the inspired propaganda against Senator Borah, and sounded a word of warning to the Negro press of the country, which is being used to carry stories about the Senator that are not true, and which are unmanly blows below the belt.

Listen to this advice that Mr. Fish gives the Negro citizens of America in the matter:

Ousting Negro Delegates

"At any rate, among the untrue and vicious charges is that Senator Borah used his influence to unseat colored delegates at the Republican National Convention. The answer is that Senator Borah has not been on the committee on credentials since 1912, at which time he favored the nomination of Theodore Roosevelt, and naturally supported the colored delegates who were supporting him. The ousting of colored delegates took place in recent years under the Hoover Administration, and Senator Borah had nothing whatever to do with it.

"Senator Borah is a liberal, and as such is for a square deal for all classes of Americans. He has always opposed persecutions of all racial and religious groups, as witnessed by his denunciation of the interference with religious liberty in Mexico and the persecution of the Jews in Palestine a few years ago. He is opposed to intolerance in all forms. He has not a drop of racial prejudice in his make-up. The 12,000,000 colored American citizens can be assured of a square deal from him more than any other living Republican.

"He comes nearer to upholding the humanitarian principles of Abraham Lincoln and the Americanism, fearlessness, and square-deal policies of Theodore Roosevelt, than any man now in public life."

Only Republican to Save a Negro

"He is probably the only living Republican statesman who ever saved a colored man from being lynched by an infuriated mob. Back in 1903, at the risk of his life, he saved James Quarles, a colored man, from being taken from the jail at Nampa, Idaho, by a mob seeking to kill him for having shot a white deputy sheriff. Senator Borah and a deputy sheriff, armed to the teeth, got the colored boy out of the jail, after the mob had broken the door down and marched him through 2,000 people with drawn pistols and put him on a waiting engine and caboose and got away before the mob had the nerve to attack. Later the boy was freed on a plea of self-defense.

"Men with racial prejudice do not risk their own lives to save the life of a Negro. Senator Borah, as a fearless liberal, will see that the 12,000,000 colored people are given a square deal and economic justice, and that is all they have ever asked.

"I realize that there is an inspired campaign on to turn the Negro voters against Senator Borah. It is understandable as an attempted offset to the rising tide of popularity and political strength manifested toward him by the American people.

"Let me, as a long-standing friend, say to the colored people that Senator Borah's position in upholding the Constitution is a tremendous service to them. As Al Smith says, the Constitution is the civil Bible of America, representing the rights of the minorities, racial and religious. The American Negro has more at stake through undermining or destroying the Constitution than any other group. The 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments are safeguards and guaranties for the civil rights of 12,000,000 colored Americans. Once the Constitution becomes a scrap of paper, these guaranties may be wiped out overnight. When such a day comes the colored people under an unfriendly administration may be treated as the Jews now are in Germany, outlawed, deprived of civil and economic rights and liberties, and even denied the right to hold jobs in the Government service or to trade with white people.

"My advice to the 12,000,000 colored American citizens is to stand steadfast by the Constitution and all defenders of the Constitution and particularly by Senator Borah, who is the greatest and most fearless expounder and upholder of the Constitution in the United States."

I can not at this time recall any member of the Republican Party who has the slightest chance whatever against Franklin D. Roosevelt, destined to be the Democratic nominee in the November elections. About the only man the Republicans can name who has even a ghost of a chance is Senator Borah. While the people of the South will remain true to their traditional Democratic allegiance, they appreciate Senator Borah's opposition to the Federal Anti-Lynching Bill, and they feel kindly toward the distinguished statesman for his attitude.

HANNIBAL, MO.
COURIER-POST

MAR 9 - 1936

OBSTRUCTING LYNCHING MEASURE

Fate of the anti-lynching resolution introduced by Senator Van Nuys of Indiana, authorizing an investigation of recent lynchings, rests in the pocket of James W. Byrnes, South Carolina senator and chairman of the committee on audit and control, which must approve the $7,500 requested for the inquiry.

There it is expected to remain, at least until the time before adjournment is short enough that the resolution will have no chance to get by. If it is held up until late it will be impossible to get consideration in the crush of closing days of the session. This has been demonstrated before, no longer ago than last session. There is a strong bloc opposed to such a measure, chiefly senators and others who doubt the constitutionality of such a move by the federal government. Of the latter, Senator Borah is outstanding, a fact that was brought into the limelight in his Brooklyn meeting several weeks ago when he was severely heckled but stood his grounds and stated his legal reasons for opposing the Costigan-Wagner bill, although in asserting his sympathy with its purposes.

Southern senators also advance the states rights argument, although there also is an obvious feeling that they sense it is directed at their states primarily. Recent developments in which the supreme court has upheld the constitutional division of authority as between the federal and state governments, have encouraged opponents of anti-lynching legislation in Washington.

However, obstruction tactics still are favored. Senators had rather not face the issue. Those opposed do not wish to be labeled as in any way placing approval upon violence, and others who would favor such legislation upon its purposes, are often in groups which have been challenging laws they charge violate states rights, particularly New Deal measures. So the anti-lynching situation is rather badly mixed, and perhaps there are many on both sides of the question who would just as soon have Senator Byrnes allow the resolution to remain undisturbed in his pocket, despite the realization that every repetition of mob violence is a blot.

WATERBURY, CONN.
REPUBLICAN

MAR 1 4 1936

Anti-Lynching Bill Blocked

A letter printed on this page this morning from Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, calls attention to the way in which the Van Nuys anti-lynching resolution is being killed in Senate committee. Opposition to this bill is confined to Southern senators and representatives, whose sympathy in several cases is undoubtedly with lynchers, and to such strict constitutionalists as Sen. Borah who regard the bill as an invasion of the sacred rights of sovereign states.

With the first attitude, that which condones lynching, we need not concern ourselves. It reflects an outrageous disposition to wink at a hideous crime. As for the constitutional objection, we have made one crime against which local authorities seemed helpless—that of kidnaping—a federal offense, and the fact that kidnap gangs are often interstate operators was only technically important. The whole point was that it was a ghastly crime against which for self protection we needed reinforcement of local and state officers by the efficient G-men.

The matter of lynching does not come home to us with the horror we feel for kidnaping. We all have loved ones whom an uncontrolled and arrogant snatch racket would menace, but the circumstances under which any kith or kin of most of us would fall in danger of lynching are fantastically unlikely. Yet for certain minority groups the peril is real. The colored man or woman, especially in the South, has reason to fear such outrage. An outspoken advocate of an extreme political philosophy may, in some quarters of our country, be abused and even killed by cruel, lawless mobs.

And not only is this a crime which in many communities, law officers are unable or unwilling to combat, but too often, in fact almost invariably, a conspiracy of inaction and silence protects the perpetrators of mob violence after the horrid deed has been done.

To most humanitarian persons the field must seem one that federal officers can properly invade, preventing such crimes when they can, holding the culprits to strict accountability after they are done, and so furnishing a deterrent example. At any rate, the senator from South Carolina, in whose committee the Van Nuys resolution is gathering dust, should have notice served upon him that, whatever the merits of the case for that piece of legislation, the country wants that case heard and decided, and will not brook petty obstruction of the national will.

Lynchings—1936
Legislation Relating to-

5412

TIMES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MAY 14 1936

ANTI-LYNCHING ISSUE FORCED ON CONGRESS

Anti-lynching legislation was catapulated into a major issue of the present session of Congress today as a Democratic House caucus was forced.

A petition signed by 38 Democrats calling for the caucus was delivered to Representative Edward Taylor, of Colorado, caucus chairman, who is confined to the Naval Hospital.

Under rules it is mandatory upon Taylor to issue the call. A two-third vote can bind House Democrats.

Second Drive On

The petition was a part of the drive to force action in both Senate and House on anti-lynching legislation before Congress adjourns. Representative Ford (D.), of California, said:

"The petition, with the names duly verified, has been delivered. It is mandatory that the caucus be called, I am sure, and one will be held."

House backers of anti-lynching legislation also were driving to force consideration of the bill of Representative Gavagan (D.) of New York by the petition route.

A separate petition to discharge the Judiciary Committee from consideration of the Gavagan bill had been signed by 70 members. Under House rules, 218 members must sign to bring the measure to the floor.

Republicans Aiding

Sponsors of the legislation were making a bi-partisan drive for support for the Gavagan petition.

Republican members, seeking to put their political foes "on the spot" were aiding in the drive led by the New York member.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
May 19, 1936

SHALL THE SOUTH SURRENDER?

Promising to pass the so-called "anti-lynching bill" the Republican leaders have appealed to negroes in effort to head off Borah. Negro newspapers refer to the senator as "Pro-lynch Borah" because he voted against the bill.

This bill Senators Lewis and Copeland, Democrats, are trying to have passed before congress adjourns. All Northern Democratic senators favor it. President Roosevelt's position is for practical purposes favorable to it. He is silent while Southern senators try to defeat it by a filibuster.

The bill is one "offensive" of a general advance of the negroes which includes complete revolution of race relations in the South. Democratic enactment of a law compelling admission of whites and negroes to theaters and hotels on equal terms in Pennsylvania was another offensive.

The negroes have captured both Republican and Democratic parties, the congress and the White House.

Only the Southern minorities in congress stand for the Southern principle of racial separation. The ranks of these Southerners may break; we think they will. In time they will, unless resistance begins and begins soon.

In the matter of the "race question" the South is "isolated." We had better admit it. All parties, the congress, the White House, are against us.

The only friends the Southerners have left are themselves and the few Northern men like Borah who speak for state rights. The Southerners in congress cannot long defeat the Costigan-Wagner or other negro bills.

Unless the South is ready to give up the fight it would as well fall into step with the national Democratic party in what Secretary Ickes has called the "new deal for the negro." That means negroes voting exactly as whites do in Southern States.

The Southern states can defend themeslves effectively by nominating and electing white men to the Electoral College pledged to no party candidate and pledged to make the best bargain for their states that they can.

NEWS COURIER

MAY 19 1936

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If the candidates this year should be Roosevelt and Landon and South Carolina should elect in November eight presidential electors free to vote for Borah or a "dark horse", more attention would be given to South Carolina than it has had in fifty years. If half a dozen Southern states should adopt this course the national Democratic party would have a chill and there would be teeth-chattering on both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue.

The reason that the Southerners are not taking this course is that the federal office-holders in control are concerned more for their precious jobs than for the Southern white people.

Anyway, unless the South stands up and resists, it is licked and crushed.

DURHAM, N. C.
SUN

MAY 16 1936

Anti-Lynching Bill

With Congress seeking diligently to clear the decks for adjournment, the anti-lynching issue has again been thrust into the legislative situation. A Democratic caucus has been forced. The move will get nowhere. The Democrats are not going to raise so volatile an issue in an election year. Moreover, there isn't time to fight that battle before adjournment. Finally, it is likely a majority of Congress are of the opinion that controlling lynching is a state problem in any event, best approached through education.

LOUISVILLE, KY.
TIMES

MAY 18 1936

Lynching Bill Next?

Ineluctably, revived discussion of the Federal anti-lynching bill follows the mop-up of notorious kidnapers by the G-men.

The Knoxville News-Sentinel, observing that the Lindbergh law, making kidnaping for ransom a Federal offense, was enacted because of the default of local law enforcement, says lynching is among other crimes local law officers are apparently unwilling or unable to curtail.

Lynching has flourished while kidnaping has subsided because of fear of punishment by the Federal Government, *The News-Sentinel* says admitting that recrudescence of kidnaping may occur.

When a newspaper as far south as Knoxville advocates the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill "so that a few of Mr. HOOVER's G-men may be sent, for example, into Georgia to instill anew respect for the right of trial by jury" the doctrine of State rights seems to be losing ground in Dixie.

Of course *The News-Sentinel* is technically, rather than acutally, a Southern newspaper.

It is a Scripps-Howard paper. Moreover, Knoxville is populated largely by people who are not of the old South.

Kidnaping has, in most cases, interstate aspects. Lynching is almost always a community crime, its perpetrators residents before and after the fact.

It is a crime which local government could cope with about as easily as the Federal Government could.

A ghastly record of failure of local government in lynching cases may lead eventually to Federal intervention.

States in which the sovereignty of the mob, instead of the sovereignty of the law is cherished then will be held responsible for loss of sovereignty. But what State has punished lynching?

NEW YORK, N. Y.
WORLD-TELEGRAM

MAY 23 1936

NEW LYNCH BILL PLANNED

Ford Urges Congress to Pass Legislation at This Session.

By the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, May 23.—Representative Ford (D., Cal.) one of the leaders of a bloc seeking consideration of anti-lynching measures said today that another effort will be made at this session of Congress to arouse interest in the legislation.

Failing by more than ninety members to muster the 158 needed for a majority quorum, the proponents were forced last night to abandon a caucus without so much as discussion.

Called together by a petition signed by twenty-seven Democrats the slightly more than sixty Congressmen who showed up disbanded after Representative Rankin (Miss.) made a point of no quorum.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
TIMES

MAY 22 1936

FOR LYNCHING BILL CAUCUS

House Democrats Are Called to Act on Ford Measure.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, May 21.—A call for a House Democratic caucus to meet tomorrow night for consideration of anti-lynching bills was sent out today by Representative Taylor of Colorado, its chairman.

The caucus was forced by a petition circulated by Representatives Ford of California and Gavagan of New York. Two almost identical bills are first among those to be considered, one by Senators Costigan and Wagner, which was filibustered to death last year, and another by Mr. Ford. Both provide for Federal penalties against cities and counties which fail to provide adequate protection for accused persons.

An attempt will be made tomorrow night to put the caucus on record as suggesting that the Rules Committee bring the Ford bill out on the floor, a step without precedent since the Judiciary Committee has never acted on it.

Supporters of the measure, while admitting that it has little chance at this session, assert that enough interest can be aroused to pass a bill at the next session.

CLEVELAND, OHIO
NEWS

MAY 16 1936

Back Anti-Lynch Stand

The Georgia Association of Cleveland, of which Norman L. McGhee is president, today sent a telegram to Governor Eugene Talmadge of Georgia commending him for his recent stand against lynching.

Durham, N. C. Herald
May 24, 1936

BILL ATTENDED

It is the habit of politicians to adapt tactics to fit the occasion and the purpose and on that theory it can be contended the Democratic leaders in the House scored a victory when they boycotted a Democratic caucus forced on them by a handful of members who wanted to debate anti-lynching legislation. Certainly it can be contended with logic that near the tail end of a session in a presidential year is anything but the right time to toss anti-lynching bills on the floor of the congress for debate. Promoters of the caucus and proponents of anti-lynching bills now locked in committee, know there is not the slightest chance of getting them through this session. They know too that the reason they wanted them debated concerns politics back home.

Nevertheless, we are glad our Bill Umstead had the nerve to answer the summons to his party's cause. He was the only member of the North Carolina delegation to attend the caucus and we take it that the fact he attended does not put him on record as to bills that were to be discussed, but could not be because a quorum was lacking.

Every single anti-lynching proposition on the House agenda may be wholly without merit. Perhaps all of them ought to be killed. It may be that the congress meddles where it has no business when it tinkers with the lynching problem from the standpoint of federal legislation. The whole question of federal anti-lynching legislation is debatable.

But how, will the gentlemen who locked anti-lynching bills in committee and hogtied the Democratic caucus please explain, is the public to learn what is in the pending bills and how is there to be an open discussion of the merits of each, unless they are served up for examination and debate? If the bills are all bad, why can't they be brought out and killed after being discussed on their merits? Surely, southern senators and representatives do not mean to admit they are afraid to take a stand against evil legislation. If the bills are so dangerous as to require reprehensible tactics in committee and party caucus, how come they can not be brought out and executed in public?

The whole performance along with the behavior of Senator Bailey when the anti-lynching issue was up last session impresses us as sorry business by legislators who either respond to political expediency ahead of convictions or have no convictions and prefer not to cultivate any with respect to anti-lynching legislation.

Lynchings - 1936
Legislation Relating to.

5413

BROOKLYN, N. Y.
EAGLE

MAR 17 1936

Public Urged to Voice Its Approval Of Federal Anti-Lynching Legislation

Editor Brooklyn Daily Eagle:

Next Summer, when Congress shall have adjourned and lynchings occur with frequency, editorial writers and others will be pointing out the necessity of Federal legislation. May I call attention, therefore, to what is happening at Washington? On January 6, 1936, Senator Frederick Van Nuys of Indiana introduced a resolution for a Senate investigation of the lynchings which occurred in 1935 following the Senate filibuster against the Costigan-Wagner bill. The Van Nuys resolution provides for an investigation of the lynchings which occurred between May 1 and Dec. 31, 1935, with particular reference to the action or lack of action on the part of the various States to prevent these lynchings or to punish the lynchers. The Van Nuys resolution was reported out favorably by the Senate Judiciary Committee on Feb. 11. It then went to the Senate Committee on Audit and Control, where it now rests. Senator James F. Byrnes of South Carolina declines to call a meeting of that committee to take action upon it. It is reported in Washington that the committee, consisting at present of four Senators, is evenly divided on the resolution—Senators Byrnes and Nathan L. Bachman (of Tennessee) opposing favorable action, while Senators Millard E. Tydings (of Maryland) and John G. Townsend Jr. (of Delaware) favor.

Unless public opinion lets this committee, the White House and individual Senators know it wants this resolution reported favorably, the resolution is going to be smothered in committee by the forces which oppose any corrective action against lynching. The tide of lynching is rapidly increasing against both white and Negro Americans, North as well as South. During 1935 there were 25 authenticated lynchings and 102 instances of lynchings narrowly averted by the escape of the intended victim, augmenting of jail guards, removal of the prisoners, or by other means.

WALTER WHITE.

Manhattan, March 10.

LOUISVILLE, KY.
COURIER-JOURNAL

MAR 15 1936

CONGRESS AND LYNCHING.

To the Editor of The Courier-Journal.

On January 6, 1936, Senator Frederick Van Nuys of Indiana introduced a resolution for a Senate investigation of the lynchings which occurred in 1935 following the Senate filibuster against the Costigan-Wagner bill. The Van Nuys resolution provides for an investigation of the lynchings which occurred between May 1 and December 31, 1935, with particular reference to the action or lack of action on the part of the various States to prevent these lynchings or to punish the lynchers. The Van Nuys resolution was reported out favorably by the Senate Judiciary Committee on February 11. It then went to the Senate Committee on Audit and Control where it now rests. Senator James F. Byrnes of South Carolina declines to call a meeting of that committee to take action upon it. It is reported in Washington that the committee, consisting at present of four Senators, is evenly divided on the resolution — Senators Byrnes and Nathan L. Bachman (of Tennessee) opposing favorable action while Senators Millard E. Tydings (of Maryland) and John G. Townsend, Jr., (of Delaware) favor.

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WALTER WHITE,
Secretary National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
STAR

MAR 15 1936

WARFARE ON LYNCHING.

To the Editor of The Indianapolis Star:

May I be permitted to call attention to what is happening at Washington. On Jan. 6, 1936, Senator Frederick VanNuys of Indiana introduced a resolution for a Senate investigation of the lynchings which occurred in 1935 following the Senate filibuster against the Costigan-Wagner bill. The VanNuys resolution provides for an investigation of the lynchings which occurred between May 1 and Dec. 31, 1935, with particular reference to the action or lack of action on the part of the various states to prevent these lynchings or to punish the lynchers. The VanNuys resolution was reported out favorably by the Senate judiciary committee on Feb. 11. It then went to the Senate committee on audit and control, where it now rests. Senator J mes F. Byrnes of South Carolina declines to call a meeting of that committee to take action upon it. It is reported in Washington that the committee, consisting at present of four senators, is evenly divided on the resolution—Senators Byrnes and Nathan L. Bachman (of Tennessee) opposing favorable action, while Senators Millard E. Tydings (of Maryland) and John G. Townsend Jr. (of Delaware) favor.

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WALTER WHITE,
Secretary National Association o
the Advancement of Colored People, New York.

MILWAUKEE, WIS.
LEADER

MAR 25 1936

LYNCHING

In the letter column we printed an appeal from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for the public to make itself heard and felt in behalf of anti-lynching legislation in congress.

The appeal is well taken. Congress should have passed such legislation long ago. Having failed in the past, partly because of inertia and partly because the influential southerners want to preserve the "sacred right" of lynching used by the blood-thirsty element of their people, such legislation should be passed now.

Of course the influential southerners in and out of congress will deny that they want to preserve the fine art of lynching for the blood-thirsty part of their population. They will do much mouthing about federal interference with the rights of the states. They will say the states can attend to these matters themselves.

They could—but they don't.

Lynchings are liable to occur in any state, north or south, but the plain truth is that most of them happen in the south and that most of the victims are colored people. But the victims are not all colored people. And the victims are not all even charged with crime. Some are charged with being lovers of humanity who desire to promote the general welfare.

Lynching and vigilanteeism are of the same breed, and both should be squelched.

COLUMBUS, GA.
LEDGER

MAR 17 1936

An Anti-Lynching Law?

For a number of years, there has been a concerted effort on the part of Northern Congressmen to have enacted a federal law against lynching, one that would force a county in which mob violence occurred to pay ten thousand dollars to the family of the person lynched.

The South has opposed the proposed legislation quite determinedly, with the result that its proponents have never been able to enact it.

But now an organized movement for such a law has begun in the South itself—in Georgia. As result of several lynchings during recent months and the tendency of mob violence recently to increase rather than diminish, an organization with headquarters in Atlanta and composed of Southern people is now suggesting federal action to end such violence. The suggestion was published in the state papers Sunday following a lynching near Columbus on last Friday night.

A movement like this from within the South itself is bound to have considerable effect and be of definite aid to those in the North who are favoring the aforesaid legislation. If the matter gains much support in the South—that is, if the South becomes divided on the question—the bill will certainly pass.

Manifestly, this comes as a warning to all would-be lynchers. The matter now rests in their hands as to whether such federal law is to be enacted. Another lynching or two like that of last Friday night, and the prospects are that a federal anti-lynch law will be enacted by Congress.

SENATE BODY REFUSES TO VOTE LYNCH PROBE

Constitution

Wagner Says Two Dixie Governors Willing To Support Bill

4-3-36

WASHINGTON, April 2.—(AP)—Offers to bring two southern governors to testify that it was "impossible" to bring lynch mobs to justice in their states failed to influence a senate committee today to approve an appropriation of $7,500 for an investigation of lynchings in the past year.

Chairman Byrnes, democrat, South Carolina, of the audit committee, which had before it the resolution of Senator Van Nuys, democrat, Indiana, proposing such an inquiry, said he did not know what its ultimate disposition would be.

Senators Van Nuys and Wagner, democrat, New York, co-author of the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill, said they told the committee that at least two southern governors were willing to come here and relate the difficulties of punishing lynchers in their states. They would not name the governors.

The Van Nuys resolution sets forth in its preamble that 14 lynchings of whites and negroes have occurred in seven states since May 1, 1935, when the senate sidetracked the Wagner-Costigan bill imposing severe penalties on local officers and counties for failure to protect prisoners from mobs.

The resolution would empower the senate judiciary committee to inquire into the "facts and circumstances" in the 14 lynchings, what relation they might have had to other crimes, and whether any steps were taken to prosecute participants.

No Lynching Inquiry

Journal and Guide

THE resolution offered by Senator VAN NUYS, Democrat, of Indiana, to appropriate $7,500 for the purpose of inquiring into the causes of the 15 lynchings that have occurred in the South since the COSTIGAN-WAGNER bill was prevented from reaching a vote during the last Congress, was killed in the Senate audit committee last week. Senator BYRNES, of South Carolina, is chairman of the committee.

The VAN NUYS resolution would authorize the Senate to inquire into the "facts and circumstances" surrounding the last 15 mob killings, to find what relations they might have to other crimes, and if any steps have been taken to punish the participants.

4-11-36

But the southern senators will not permit this to be done. An unofficial southern organization, however, the Southern Commission on Interracial Cooperation, has just completed an inquiry which it has published in the form of a 24-page pamphlet. This inquiry discloses that 41 per cent of the mob victims lynched since the COSTIGAN-WAGNER bill was side-tracked, were either unaccused of crime, or charged with minor offenses. The southern senators know that rape is very seldom, if ever, the true cause of a lynching. That is their sole justification for sanctioning lynching, and they don't want the public to know that their justification rests upon such flimsy grounds, even if lynching could be justified as the proper procedure in the punishment of any crime, however heinous.

Norfolk Va.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.
SUNDAY AMERICAN

APR 19 1936

Warned by Powerful Group To 'Lay Off' Anti-Lunch Bill

Says She Will Continue To Give It Her Support

Continued support of the anti-lynching bill now in committee in the House of Representatives may be expected from New York State's congresswoman-at-large, despite the fact that she has been warned to "lay off" by a powerful group of representatives from the South.

has had a seat in the House of Representatives for two years and will run again, was one of a half dozen Democratic party leaders appearing before a rally of Democratic women from nine counties yesterday in Hotel Seneca.

LEADERS ATTEND

With her as guests of the Women's Division of the Democratic County Committee of Monroe, here to plan for the fall presidential campaign, were Miss Nancy Cook, friend and frequent companion of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Mrs. Henry Goddard Leach, wife of the editor of The Forum magazine, delegate at large from New York State to the Democratic national convention in Philadelphia and chairman of the "reporter plan" of the Democratic National Committee.

Most important regional conference of the year for the Democratic women of Monroe and adjacent counties, the all-day meeting also was addressed by Miss Lavina Engle, former member of the House of Delegates, Maryland; Miss Rose McHugh, assistant commissioner of the New York State Department of Social Welfare and Dr. Elizabeth Gardiner, director of the division of maternity, infancy and child hygiene, New York State Department of Health.

'NEAR HER HEART'

Mrs. O'Day, addressing the luncheon meeting in Hotel Seneca ballroom, told the women she has worked consistently for passage of labor bills, for peace bills and for the anti-lynching bill, which is "nearest her heart."

"I am a Southern woman and I know what sanction of lynching means," she said, adding:

"I shall continue to work in behalf of the anti-lynching bill, even though some powerful Southern gentlemen have warned me to 'lay of.'"

Mrs. O'Day expressed fear over the fate of peace bills now in committee, saying they probably never will see the light of congressional debate. Principal among them is the Ludlow bill calling for a referendum before a state of war can be declared.

PRAISE FOR DUFFY

For James P. B. Duffy, Democratic representative of the Thirty-eighth District in the House, Mrs. O'Day had unstinted praise, declaring "everyone in Congress has respect for his intelligent consideration of all bills and for his integrity."

Social security legislation now before Congress is the only possible means of mitigating the rigors of unemployment and old age through a well organized government plan, Miss Engle told the women.

Mrs. Emma Guffey Miller, sister of Senator "Joe" Guffey of Pennsylvania, Miss McHugh and Doctor Gardiner were speakers in the afternoon session. Mayor Charles Stanton introduced speakers at the luncheon.

WPA EXTOLLED

Addressing the morning session, Robert G. Hoffman, local director of WPA, defended expenditures on WPA projects, declaring that 80 per cent. of those now under way would have to be undertaken by the localities within the next few years. He added:

"The community gains by WPA first in the saving of morals, second by preservation of human skills, third by material enrichment, and fourth by cash expenditures of those who are employed."

ATTACK ATTEMPT LAID TO TELFAIR NEGRO

MACON, Ga., May 21.—(AP)—Walter Lane, negro just released from the Telfair county chain gang, was in Bibb county jail today for safekeeping after his arrest on a charge of attempting to attack a 10-year-old white girl near McRae.

Sheriff [illegible] Walker, of Telfair county, said the negro fled when the child and her younger brother screamed for help.

A posse with bloodhounds trailed Lane to a near-by hiding place.

Lynchings-1936
Legislation Relating to.

5414

PROFESSOR OF LAW QUIZZES W. E. BORAH

Says Constitutionality of Anti-Lynch Bill Is Up To Supreme Court

NEW YORK. — K. N. Llewellyn, member of the faculty of the law school of Columbia university, and of the legal committees of the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has written Senator William E. Borah concerning the constitutionality of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill.

Mr. Llewellyn's letter poses the question as to whether the supreme court ought not be allowed to pass upon the constitutionality of measures when there is on both sides in the legislating chamber a question as to its constitutionality. The letter:

Followed Work With Gratitude

"Like many of your fellow-citizens, I have followed your work for decades with gratitude that we have such legislators.

"There is, however, one point on which I hope you will find time to enlighten me. It has to do with a lawyer-legislator's responsibility on points of constitutionality.

"I assume, as of course, that no responsible legislator will deliberately vote for measures which he knows the courts will later throw out. This I understand to be your position, often made clear.

"My doubt begins when doubt begins. If a legislator himself firmly believes a given measure to be unconstitutional, and yet able and disinterested lawyers hold the contrary view, is the legislator entitled to substitute his personal view for that of the Supreme Court which has not spoken? Especially in view of the fact that until a bill is passed, the Supreme Court will not speak.

Problem Pressing

"The problem becomes pressing to me, Sir, because of your definite views on the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill. I feel that a fairly persuasive case can be made for the constitutionality of that bill. You are convinced to the contrary, and feel it your duty to oppose its passage. I honor the conviction. But I am worried about the premise.

"If lawyers as honest and able as Wagner and Costigan feel the bill to be sound not only on policy but on constitutionality, should the discussion not proceed on the basis of the policy consideration involved, leaving the admitted doubt on constitutionality to be settled by the constitutional arbiter, the supreme court?"

Charl[illegible] C. Observer
[illegible] 1936

ASKS PROBE OF 14 LYNCHINGS

Senator Van Nuys Says States Have Failed to Curb Acts of Violence.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31—(AP)—A congressional investigation of the 14 lynchings he said had occurred since May 1 was demanded tonight by Senator Van Nuys, Democrat of Indiana.

Asserting states and local authorities apparently have failed "to prevent lynching and punish those responsible," he said he would introduce a resolution to authorize the inquiry.

He chose May 1 as the line of demarcation, he said, because on that date Senate debate on the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill was concluded, with the measure pigeon-holed by a determined southern filibuster.

"Various members of the Senate made statements to the effect that Federal legislation against lynching is unnecessary as the states can and will prevent lynchings and punish those responsible for this mob violence," Van Nuys said.

"Yet despite these statements there have occurred in the United States, since the close of the debate on May 1, at least 14 lynchings of both white and negro citizens."

Consequently, Van Nuys said he would introduce a resolution calling for an investigation by the Senate Judiciary committee or a subcommittee which would be directed to inquire "fully into the facts and circumstances surrounding the 14 lynchings which have occurred, including the relationship of these acts of violence to other crimes and a consequent depreciation in the maintenance of law and order.

The Costigan-Wagner bill called for penalties upon local government units in which lynchings occurred, imposed by withholding Federal funds, which otherwise would have been spent in the localities.

The issue created by that measure was recently brought into prominence by Senator Borah. In a letter to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Borah reiterated his opposition, asserting the measure was unconstitutional.

New York American

JAN 2 1936

LEADERS BACK LYNCH INQUIRY

PASADENA, Cal., Jan. (AP).—The governors of Texas and California said here today they had no objection to a Congressional inquiry proposed by Senator Van Nuys of Indiana into 14 lynchings since last May 1.

But Gov. Allred, of Texas, said he would be against the Federal Government going beyond the investigation point. He added:

"I am opposed to further extension of Federal power. The States can cope with the situation adequately."

Gov. Merriam, of California said:

"I have no objection to the proposed investigations as it would serve a good purpose. But if further Federal steps were proposed, I should have to study them before giving an opinion."

Columbus Ga Enquirer-Sun
January 1, 1936

Probe of Lynchings Sought by Van Nuys

Washington, Dec. 31—(AP)—A congressional investigation of the 14 lynchings he said had occurred since May 1 was demanded tonight by Senator Van Nuys (D-Ind).

Asserting states and local authorities apparently have failed "to prevent lynching and punish those responsible," he said he would introduce a resolution to authorize the inquiry.

He chose May 1 as the line of demarcation, he said, because on that date senate debate on the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill was concluded, with the measure pigeon-holed by a determined southern filibuster.

Senate Resolution Calls For Lynching Inquiry

Washington. Jan. 3.—Pointing to the apparent failure of state and local law enforcement vehicles to prevent lynching and punish those responsible, Senator Frederick Van Nuys (D.-Ind.) announced January 1 that he intends to introduce a resolution, calling for an investigation of the fourteen lynchings which have occurred in the United States since May 1.

Senator Van Nuys called attention to the fact that during the debate on the motion to consider the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, which continued from April 26 until May 1, various members of the Senate made statements to the effect that Federal legislation against lynching is unnecessary as the states can and will prevent lynchings and punish those responsible for this mob violence.

Yet, despite these statements, there have occurred in the United States, since the close of the debate on May 1st, at least fourteen lynchings of both white and Negro citizens.

In view of this circumstance, the Senator intends, by means of this Resolution, to have the Senate authorize the committee on the Judiciary, or any sub-committee thereof, to investigate fully the facts and circumstances surrounding the fourteen lynchings which have occurred, including the relationship of these acts of violence to other crimes and a consequent depreciation in the maintenance of law and order.

The committee to make the investigation shall report its findings to the Senate at the earliest practical date, not later than March 1st, 1936, which will, it is believed, provide an authoritative and reliable basis for further consideration of anti-lynching legislation.

The announcement by Senator Van Nuys that he would introduce such a resolution created a flurry of interest in the capital since it is well known that the anti-lynching legislation is one of those controversial subjects which many legislators would like to keep very much in the background. The move was regarded in many quarters as an excellent strategic one which will focus the attention of the nation upon [illegible] manner in which the states have dealt with the crime of lynching. It is regarded as particularly valuable that this information for the first time will have the stamp of an official government inquiry and therefore will not be able to be dismissed on grounds that it is "propaganda by paid agitators."

Soon after Senator Van Nuys made his announcement Governor James V. Allred of Texas and Governor Fra[illegible] Merriam o[illegible] California state[illegible]ey had no objection to a federal investigation of each of the lynchings since May 1, but would not approve any federal action beyond investigation.

Hadassahs Want Lynchings to End

NEW YORK. — A resolution demanding "enforced legislation to put an end to lynching, and mob violence for all time" in America was adopted at the recent national convention of Hadassah, the women's Zionist organization of America, held in Cleveland and a copy has been forwarded to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People by Mrs. Herman Shulman.

Hadassah, because of its rules, was not able to sponsor any particular legislation, but the delegates, in response to a telegram from the N. A. A. C. P., went on record against lynching.

Philadelphia, Pa.
Inquirer-Public Iedger

JAN 5 1936

NEGROES TO DEMAND ANTI-LYNCHING LAW

Mass Meeting Here on January 23 Will Urge Congress to Act

By JOSEPH V. BAKER

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will renew its fight to get an anti-lynching bill through the present session of Congress, hinging its fate upon making the bill a political measure, according to instructions sent to the organization's 300 branches by Walter White, executive secretary.

The announcement, which will bear heavily on the election this year, was coincident with another from Tuskegee Institute which placed the number of 1935 lynchings at 20, an increase of five over the officially accepted number of 15 during 1934. Of the 20 persons killed, according to Dr. Frederick Douglass Patterson, Tuskegee head, 18 were Negroes and 2 white.

The report, which gave Mississippi the year's ribbons for a total of 7 killings, also pointed out that 84 persons—17 white and 67 Negroes—were saved by law officers. Dr. Patterson also cited this as an increase in law vigilance. While Louisiana, Florida, Georgia, Texas, California, North Carolina and Tennessee were listed, South Carolina, Virginia and Arkansas disappeared from the scroll.

The full political significance of the revival of the Costigan-Wagner measure in Congress will become more obvious this week when association will seek to poll each Congressman who must face his electorate in November. According to the Philadelphia branch, which is a member of the Pennsylvania State Council, the organization will follow practically the same policy which it used in the case of Judge John J. Parker when it asked the Senate to refuse confirmation as a member of the Supreme Court. Following that Congressional session, the association actively campaigned against every Senator who supported the Southerner.

In launching the new drive for Federal legislation against lynching, the association head said:

"A shameless filibuster by Southern Senators sidetracked the bill which would have added the hand of the Federal Government to those of the few law officers who want to see justice done. The fight will be definitely renewed in this session of Congress and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People promises to tell Negroes throughout this country who is responsible for its failure—if it fails."

In Philadelphia, the first move will be made by an associated interracial group of 31 organizations federated under the title of the Philadelphia Committee Against Lynching. This group will hold a mass meeting on January 31, with Norman Thomas as main speaker and Senator Costigan or Senator Wagner setting forth the provisions of the bill which they will re-introduce.

Led by the Committee on Race Relations of the Society of Friends, this group contributed substantially to the association's fight last year.

Jackson, Miss. Ledger
January 1, 1936

SOLON ASKS LYNCH PROBE

Indianan Demands Congressional Investigation of Mob Violence Acts

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—(AP)—A congressional investigation of the 14 lynchings he said had occurred since May 1 was demanded tonight by Senator Van Nuys (D-Ind.).

Asserting states and local authorities apparently have failed "to prevent lynching and punish those responsible," he said he would introduce a resolution to authorize the inquiry.

He chose May 1 as the line of demarcation, he said, because on that date senate debate on the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill was concluded, with the measure piegeon-holed by a determined southern filibuster.

"Various members of the senate made statements to the effect that federal legislation against lynching is necessary as the states can and will prevent lynchings and punish those responsible for this mob violence," Van Nuys said.

"Yet despite these statements there have occurred in the United States, since the close of the debate on May 1, at least fourteen lynchings of both white and negro citizens."

Consequently, Van Nuys said he would introduce a resolution calling for an investigation by the senate judiciary committee or a subcommittee which would be directed to inquire "fully into the facts and circumstances surrounding the fourteen lynchings which have occurred, including the relationship of these acts of violence to other crimes and a consequent depreciation in the maintenance of law and order.

The Costigan-Wagner bill called for penalties upon local government units in which lynchings occurred, imposed by withholding federal funds, which otherwise would have been spent in the localities.

The issue created by that measure was recently brought into prominence by Senator Borah. In a letter to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Borah reiterated his opposition, asserting the measure was unconstitutional.

New York World Telegram

JAN 7 1936

URGES INQUIRY OF LYNCHINGS

Senator Van Nuys Acts to Give Impetus to Costigan-Wagner Measure.

By Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Senator Van Nuys (D., Ind.) is seeking a Senate investigation of lynchings that occurred in 1935, and hopes thereby to give impetus to the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill.

As chairman of a sub-committee, Senator Van Nuys redrafted the Costigan-Wagner bill and obtained its approval last session by the full Judiciary Committee. Southern Senators, threatening a filibuster, prevented a vote in the Senate.

In announcing that he would introduce a resolution to investigate "the fourteen lynchings which have occurred since May 1, 1935," Mr. Van Nuys said:—

"During the debate on the motion to consider the Costigan-Wagner bill, various Senators made statements to the effect that federal legislation is unnecessary, as the States can and will prevent lynching and punish those responsible for this mob violence.

"Yet, despite these statements, there have occurred in the United States since the close of the debate on May 1 at least fourteen lynchings.

"My resolution is designed to have the Senate authorize the Committee on Judiciary or any sub-committee thereof to investigate fully the facts and circumstances surrounding the fourteen lynchings, including the relationship of these acts of violence to other crimes and a consequent depreciation in the maintenance of law and order."

According to Tuskegee Institute, there were twenty lunchings in the United States in 1935, compared with fifteen in 1934.

All occurred in the South, except one in California. Mississippi had seven, Louisiana four, Georgia, Florida and Texas two each, and North Carolina and Tennessee one each. Two of the victims were white and eighteen Negro.

There were twenty-eight lynchings in 1933 and eight in 1932.

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
DAILY NEWS

JAN 2 1936

Federal Action In Lynchings Attacked

Federal intervention as a means of preventing lynchings would be an encroachment upon state's rights, Gov. James V. Allred of Texas said yesterday in announcing his opposition to proposed statutes empowering the Department of Justice to investigate such occurrences.

"I am opposed to further extension of Federal power," Governor Allred, here for the Rose Bowl game, said. "The Federal Government has no right to usurp state police powers."

G-man investigation of lynchings is asked by Senator Frederick Van Nuys, Democrat, of Indiana, who cites 14 lynchings in the United States since May 1, as justification for such a law.

Hattiesburg, Miss. American
January 1, 1936

LYNCHING INQUIRY

(By Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—Senator Van Nuys, Democrat of Indiana demands a congressional inquiry into 14 lynchings which he said have taken place since May 1. Van Nuys declared state and local authorities have "failed to prevent lynching and punish those responsible." He said he would introduce a resolution calling for the investigation.

ANTI-LYNCHING ACTION URGED

Times

Van Nuys Resolution for Inquiry Held in Senate Committee.

3-17-36

To the Editor of The New York Times:

On Jan. 6 Senator Frederick Van Nuys of Indiana introduced a resolution for a Senate investigation of the lynchings which occurred in 1935 following the Senate filibuster against the Costigan-Wagner bill, with particular reference to the action or lack of action on the part of the various States to prevent these lynchings or to punish the lynchers.

New York N.Y.

The resolution was reported out favorably by the Senate Judiciary Committee on Feb. 11. It then went to the Senate Committee on Audit and Control, where it now rests. Senator James F. Byrnes of South Carolina declines to call a meeting of that committee to take action upon it. It is reported in Washington that the committee, consisting at present of four Senators, is evenly divided on the resolution—Senators Byrnes and Nathan L. Bachman of Tennessee opposing favorable action, while Senators Millard E. Tydings of Maryland and John G. Townsend Jr. of Delaware are for it.

Unless public opinion lets this committee, the White House and individual Senators know it wants this resolution reported favorably, it is going to be smothered in committee by the forces which oppose corrective action against lynching.

The tide of lynching is rapily increasing against both white and Negro Americans, North as well as South. During 1935 there were twenty-five authenticated lynchings, and 102 instances of lynchings narrowly averted by the escape of the intended victims, augmenting of jail guards, removal of the prisoners, or by other means.

WALTER WHITE,
Secretary National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People.
New York, March 10. 1936.

Lynchings—1936
Legislation Relating to.
6 6

Historical

5401

Letters To The Editor

Please be brief. We reserve the right to cut letters more than 300 words long

LYNCHING PENALTIES

Advertiser 7-36
Pd.
Montgomery, Ala.

Editor The Advertiser:

The recent Congress was confronted with proposed legislation which imposes a monetary penalty on any State in which a lynching took place.

A penalty of this nature is not new to Alabama. On the 28th day of December, 1868, the Legislature of Alabama enacted a similar law from which I quote the first paragraph.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Alabama. That whenever, in any county of this State, any person shall be assassinated or murdered by any outlaw, or person or persons in disguise, or mob, or for past or present party affiliation or political opinion, the widow or husband of such person so murdered or assassinated, the next of kin of such person, shall be entitled to recover of the county in which such murder or assassination occurred, the sum of five thousand dollars as damages for such murder or assassination, to be distributed among them according to the laws of Alabama, regulating the distribution of estates of interstate decedents."

This Act of Alabama was construed in the case of Dale County vs. Gunter, 46 Alabama Reporter, page 117. The suit was brought by the widow of one Gunter who was murdered by one Riley. The agreed statement of facts disclose that Riley escaped and was captured and while near Abbeville, Alabama, escaped again from the officers but before making this last escape made the following statement: Riley acknowledged, while under arrest and manacled, that he had killed Gunter, and said if he was carried back to Dale County and convicted and hung for killing Gunter, he would go to hell and fight Gunter there as long as the devil would allow him to do it.

B. W. SIMMONS
Opp. Alabama.

Lynchings-1936
N.A.A.C.P. - Reports on.

5416

National Ass'n For Advancement Of Colored People Records Thirteen Lynchings For 1936; Ga. Holds Lead

Courier 1-9-37 Pittsburgh, Pa.

Two Whites Are Among Victims—Decrease From 28 to 13 Attributed to Vigorous Fight for Anti-Lynching Legislation.

NEW YORK, Jan. 7.—With Georgia at the head of the list with five lynchings, America hung up a total of 13 mob killings for the year, according to statistics compiled by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Arkansas and Michigan followed Georgia with two lynchings each, while Florida, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas contributed one each.

Two of the thirteen victims were white, both in Michigan as a result of the murderous activities of the Black Legion.

One of the two lynchings credited to Arkansas is that of Frank Weems, Negro sharecropper, who disappeared June 8. At that time the sheriff of the county and later Gov. J. M. Futrell stated that Weems was not dead, but would be produced in "due time." Nothing has been heard of Weems since and a few days ago, in response to a direct inquiry from the N. A. A. C. P., Governor Futrell's office stated, "This office has no record at all concerning Frank Weems."

Of the thirteen victims, six were accused of attacks or attempted attacks on women; one was accused of murder; one of robbery; one of running down a pedestrian with an automobile; one of activity in the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union; one of wife-beating; one of refusal to join the Black Legion, and one offense unknown.

Nine of the victims were shot to death; two were hanged; one was hanged and shot; and one was beaten to death.

The decrease in lynchings from 28 in 1935 to 13 in 1936 is attributed by the N. A. A. C. P. to the vigorous and continuous agitation for enactment of a Federal anti-lynching law. The association asserts that the agitation for this law has spread outside the usual propaganda channels and includes many persons, organizations and publications ordinarily uninterested in campaigns of this nature.

In its summary of the lynchings for the year the N. A. A. C. P., which has been studying mob violence and compiling surveys and reports on lynchings since 1909, declares that the 1936 record reveals that no appreciable effort was made by states south of the Mason and Dioxn line to apprehend and punish lynchers and that this inactivity belies the assertion made repeatedly in Congress that the States can stop lynching and that a Federal law is therefore not needed.

The association announced that a new campaign for Federal anti-lynching legislation would be made in the 75th Congress, supported by public opinion in the South as well as the North. It stated that 251 members in the new House and 62 members of the Senate have indicated in one way or another that they are not hostile to Federal anti-lynching legislation.

Figures released by Tuskegee Institute last week differ from those of the N. A. A. C. P. Tuskegee reports nine lynchings for 1936 and 20 for 1935. The N. A. A. C. P. lists 13 for 1936 and 28 for 1935.

Columbus, Ga. Enquirer-Sun
January 1, 1937

Thirteen Lynchings Reported In 1936

NEW YORK, Dec. 31—(AP)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced today there were 13 lynchings in the United States, 15 fewer than in 1935.

The decrease was ascribed to "the vigorous and continuous agitation for enactment of a federal anti-lynching law."

Geographical distribution of the lynchings was given as follows: Georgia, 5; Arkansas and Michigan, two each; Florida, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas, one each. Two white lynching victims were said to be Michigan "Black Legion" victims. The rest were victims as follows: Attacks or attempted attacks on women, six; murder, robbery, driving an automobile which struck a pedestrian, tenant farmers' union activity, wife beating, and refusal to join the Black Legion, one each, unknown, one.

The organization said one of the two lynchings listed for Arkansas was that of Frank Weems, negro sharecropper who disappeared June 8.

Circumstances of death of the victims were described as: Shooting, nine; hanging, two; hanging and shooting, one; beating, one.

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killings fo[illegible]g to statistics compiled by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

1-9-37

Georgia with two lynchings each; while Florida, Missisippi, Oklahoma and Texas contributed one each.

Arkansas and Michiga followed; while [illegible] Mississippi, Oklahoma,

One of the two lynchings credited to Arkansas is that of Frank Weems, Negro sharecropper, who disappeared June 8. At that time the sheriff of the county and later Gov. J. M. Futrell stated that Weems was [illegible] dead, but would be produced in "due time" Nothing has been heard of Weems since and a few days ago, in response to a direct inquiry from the N. A. A. C. P., Gov. Futrell's office stated, "This office has no record at all concerning Frank Weems.

Of the thirteen victims, six were accused of attacks or attempted attacks on women; one was accused of murder; one of robbery; one of running down a pedestrian with an auto mobile; one of activity in [illegible] Southern Tenant Farmers Union; one of wife beating; one of refusal; the Black Legion; and one offense unknown.

Lynch

NEW YORK—With Georgia at the head of the list with [illegible] lynchings, America hung up a total of 13 mob [illegible] for the year, according to statistics compiled [illegible] N.A.A.C.P.

Last week Tuskegee Institute listed nine lynchings for the same period.

Arkansas and Michigan followed Georgia with two lynchings each, while Florida, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas contributed one each.

[illegible] Victims White

Two [illegible] the thirteen victims were white, both in Michigan as a result of the murderous activities of the Black Legion.

One of the two lynchings credited to Arkansas is that of Frank Weems, sharecropper, who disappeared June 8. At that time the sheriff of the county and later Gov. J. M. Futrell stated that Weems was not dead, but would be produced in "due time."

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Of the thirteen victims, six were accused of attacks or attempted attacks on women; one was accused of murder; one of robbery; one of running down a pedestrian with an automobile; one of activity in the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union; one of wife-beating; one of refusal to join the Black Legion, and one offense unknown.

9 Shot to Death

Nine of the victims were shot to death; two were hanged; one was hanged and shot, and one was beaten to death.

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13 Lynchings In 1936, Says The NAACP

New York—With Georgia at the head of the list with five lynchings America hung up a total of [illegible] mob

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NAACP Compiles Record Showing 2 White 11 Colored

Georgia Leads List With 5 Mob Murders; Tennessee Not Among "Backward States"

New York, Jan. 7—With Georgia at the head of the list with five lynchings, America hung up a total of 13 mob killings for the year, according to statistics compiled by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Arkansas and Michigan followed Georgia with two lynchings each; while Florida, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas contributed one each.

Two of the thirteen victims were white, both in Michigan as a result of the murderous activities of the Black Legion.

1-9-37

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Nine of the victims were shot to death; two were hanged; one was hung and shot; and one was beaten to death.

The decrease in lynchings from 28 in 1935 to 13 in 1936 is attributed by the N. A. A. C. P. to the vigorous and continuous agitation for enactment of a federal anti-lynching law. The association asserts that the agitation for this law has spread outside the usual propaganda channels and includes many persons, organizations and publications ordinarily uninterested in campaigns of this nature.

In its summary of the lynchings for the year the N. A. A. C. P., which has been studying mob violence and compiling surveys and reports on lynchings since 1909, declares that the 1936 record reveals

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Figures Differ on Year's Mob Killings

Bystander

13 LYNCHINGS IN 1936, ACCORDING TO N. A. A. C. P.

1-7-37

New York, Jan. 7—With Georgia at the head of the list with five lynchings, America hung up a total of thirteen mob killings for the year, compared with twenty-eight for 1935, according to statistics compiled by the N. A. A. C. P. (Tuskegee hesearch department records only eleven for 1936, or eleven less than 1936. Arkansas and Michigan followed Georgia with two lynchings each, while Florida, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas contributed one each. Two of the thirteen victims were white, both in Michigan as a result of the murderous activities of the Black Legion.

One of the two lynchings credited to Arkansas is that of Frank Weems, Negro sharecropper, who disappeared June 8th. At that time the sheriff of the county and later Gov. J. M. Futrell stated that Weems was not dead, but would be produced in "due time." Nothing has been heard of Weems since and a few days ago, in response to a direct inquiry from the N. A. A. C. P., Gov. Futrell's office stated, "This office has no record at all con cerning Frank Weems."

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Columbia, Tenn., Daily Herald
January 7, 1937

LYNCHINGS IN 1936 ARE CUT BY HALF

(Special to The Daily Herald.)

NEW YORK, Jan. 1.—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced there were 13 lynchings in the United States in 1936, 15 fewer than in 1935.

The decrease was ascribed to "the vigorous and continuous agitation for enactment of a Federal anti-lynching law."

Geographical distribution of the lynchings was given as follows:

Georgia, five; Arkansas and Michigan, two each; Florida, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas, one each. Two white lynching victims were said to be Michigan "Black Legion" victims. The rest were negroes.

Lynchings - 1936
Reports on, - N.A.A.C.P.

5415

5415

N.A.A.C.P. IS TOLD FLAG AGAINST LYNCHING IS "WRONG"

New York, Sept. 18.- The flying of a black flag reminding the public that another lynching has taken place is "wrong", the N.A.A.C.P. was advised this week by Horatio A. Smith of Boston, Mass.

Press Service of the N.A.A.C.P.

Mr. Smith wrote a letter to Irwin T. Dorch, president of the Boston branch of the N.A.A.C.P., objecting to the flag and asking Mr. Dorch to pass it on to the national headquarters in New York.

Mr. Smith says:

New York, N.Y. 9-18-36

"I here take exception to the recent act of the N.A.A.C.P. in flying the flag on the building of the national headquarters to create public sentiment against lynching. Such a method is wrong. . . The American people do not have to be told about lynching by flag-flying. That is obvious... The colored people are depending upon the N.A.A.C.P... and expect the Association to adhere to the principles and purposes for which it was organized, namely, seeking justice for the colored people.

"Now, if the N.A.A.C.P. means business, I suggest that they take a more concrete course, go to the head of the fountain, make the appeal forcibly to the leading journals of the nation, solicit the aid of the potent factors of the nation, men of influence, men of integrity... This is the age of real democracy and we should make much of it. This is no time for propaganda."

In a reply to Mr. Smith, Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. secretary, thanked him for his frank opinion and for his obvious hatred of lynching, but pointed out that it has been the experience of the Association that the American people do need to have lynching emphasized by every possible method.

"Unfortunately", writes Mr. White, "familiarity with lynching is pretty much like the old-time preachers' contention about sin-- that when one encounters it regularly it soon loses its horrors. Every legitimate means, therefore, of emphasizing upon the American consciousness that lynchings do continue seem to us to be justified. More instead of less emphasis seems to be necessary if we are to put an end to lynching."

Mr. White also points out that for twenty-seven years the N.A.A.C.P. has been appealing to the leading journals and the influential men of affairs to lend their influence to wipe out lynching.

The N.A.A.C.P. has received letters from as far away as Los Angeles, Calif., approving heartily of the idea of flying an anti-lynching flag and has received scores of telephone calls from New York residents approving of the idea.

N.A.A.C.P. FLIES BLACK FLAG OVER 5TH AVENUE AFTER LYNCHING

Press Service of the N.A.A.C.P.

New York, Sept. 11.- A huge black flag bearing the inscription "A MAN WAS LYNCHED YESTERDAY" in white block letters floated above Fifth avenue Tuesday of this week from the offices of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The flag, which is the latest method adopted by the association in its campaign against lynching, was hung out following the lynching of A. L. McCamy at Dalton, Georgia on September 6. The association offices were closed Labor Day so the flag was flown the next business day.

The N.A.A.C.P. announced that the anti-lynching flag would be flown after each lynching. Several informal suggestions have been made to the association that individuals over the country follow its example and hang out smaller flags after each lynching, but no official action has been taken on the suggestions.

According to the association's count there have been 9 lynchings so far this year, and 4 of them have been in Georgia. Two victims were white, being slain by the Black Legion in Michigan. Oklahoma had one lynching: Texas, one; and Arkansas, one.

Flag Recording Lynching Is Flown on Fifth Avenue

As part of a campaign to arouse sentiment against lynchings, a flag with the inscription "A Man Was Lynched Yesterday" was flown yesterday from the office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue, at Fourteenth Street.

The lynching which the flag referred to, according to Walter White, secretary of the organization, was that of [illegible] A. L. McCamy in Dalton, Ga. The flag was displayed from noon until 6 P. M. The organization plans to display it for one day after each lynching.

Number Of Lynchings Drops In '36

Journal Guide

Tuskegee Files Show Nine; NAACP Says 13 Lynched

1-2-37

Special to Journal and Guide

NEW YORK CITY —The records of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People show 13 lynchings for the year 1936 and four cases still under investigation, according to Walter White, executive secretary of the Association.

Norfolk

Just recently, points out Mr. White, a lynching victim was taken from Wyandotte, Mich. to Fighting Island, Canada, where he was "murdered."

Other authenticated lynchings on the NAACP record books occurred as follows: Georgia, 5; Arkansas, 2; Texas, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Florida, and Michigan, one each.

Special to Journal and Guide

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala. —That ugly blot on the face of civilization, described by indifferent police officers and coroners as "death at the hands of unknown persons," and more generally referred to as lynching, was less prevalent in the year 1936 than in any recent year. As far as the records released from Tuskegee Institute go there were only nine such unlawful executions in the calendar year just finishing as compared to 20 for the year 1935, 15 for 1934, and 28 for 1933.

Journal Guide

These figures were released recently from the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute located here. It was pointed out that all of these lynched men were Negroes and that six out of the nine killed were taken from "law enforcing" officers. Two were taken from jails while four were snatched from the "officers" charged with the safe transportation of the prisoners from place to place.

1-2-37

Only once since lynching records have been kept has the figure been lower than this year. In 1932, 6 Negroes and 2 whites were lynched, making a total of 8 for that year, according to Tuskegee records. The next lowest record was 10 in 1929. There were 11 lynched in 1928. These records go back to the year 1882.

Norfolk, Va.

However on the credit side of the ledger, there are records of 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern states and 30 in Southern states. In 30 of these cases the prisoners were moved, the guards augmented, or other precautions taken. In the other five instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. Total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from the horrible trial, not by judge and jury but in the hearts of prejudiced and inflamed citizens, and the subsequent mob murder.

Only once has the number of lynchings prevented exceeded the high total for this year. In 1919 there were 83 lynchings prevented. The records on lynchings prevented have been kept since 1914.

The offenses charged in the nine lynchings were as follows: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share crop strike, 1; and charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state were as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; and Mississippi, 1.

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13 Lynchings In '36, NAACP Says

World 1-3-37

Atlanta Ga.

NEW YORK—(S N S)—With Georgia at the head of the list with five lynchings, America hung up a total of 13 mob killings for the year, according to statistics compiled by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

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One of the two lynchings credited to Arkansas is that of Frank Weems, Negro sharecropper, who disappeared June 8. At that time the sheriff of the county and later Gov. J. M. Futrell stated that Weems was not dead, but would be produced in "due time." Nothing has been heard of Weems since and a few days ago, in response to a direct inquiry from the NAACP, Gov. Futrell's office stated, "This office has no record at all concerning Frank Weems."

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Nine of the victims were shot to death; two were hanged; one was hanged and shot; and one was beaten to death.

The decrease in lynchings from 28 in 1935 to 13 in 1936 is attributed by the NAACP to the vigorous and continuous agitation for enactment of a federal anti-lynching law. The association asserts that the agitation for this law has spread outside the usual propaganda channels and includes many persons, organizations and publications ordinarily uninterested in campaigns of this nature.

In its summary of the lynchings for the year the NAACP, which has been studying mob violence and compiling surveys and reports on lynchings since 1909, declares that the 1936 record reveals that no appreciable effort was made by states south of Mason and Dixon line to apprehend and punish lynchers and that this inactivity belies the assertion made repeatedly in congress that the states can stop lynching and that a federal law is therefore not needed.

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Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
January 1, 1937

LYNCHINGS FOR YEAR TOTAL 13

Decrease Ascribed to Demand For Federal Action.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31 (AP)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced today there were 13 lynchings in the United States in 1936, 15 fewer than in 1935.

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Geographical distribution of the lynchings was given as follows: Georgia, five; Arkansas and Michigan, two each; Florida, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas, one each. Two white lynching victims were said to be Michigan "Black Legion" victims. The rest were Negroes.

The association listed the accusations against the victims as follows: Attacks or attempted attacks on women, six; murder, robbery, driving an automobile which struck a pedestrian, Tenant Farmers' Union activity, wife-beating and refusal to join the "Black Legion," one each; unknown, one.

The organization said one of the lynchings listed for Arkansas was that of Frank Weems, Negro sharecropper who disappeared June 8.

Circumstances of death of the victims were described as: Shooting, nine; hanging, two; hanging and shooting, one; beating, one.

Greenville, Tenn., Sun
January 1, 1937

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Johnson City, Tenn. Chronicle
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TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE ARCHIVES

PRESS SERVICE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

69 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

Telephone Algonquin 4-3551

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Charles Edward Russell

13 LYNCHINGS IN 1936
ACCORDING TO N.A.A.C.P.

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NOT TO BE PUBLISHED OR REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY

Both Sides –

Lynchings –

N.A.A.C.P. Report on

January 1-6-37

THIRTEEN LYNCHERS IN 1936 ACCORDING TO N. A. A. C. P.

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(Continued on page two)

Lynchings-1936
Prevented

Alabama

5417

Gas Tossed Into Huntsville Mob

Advertiser

4-30-36

Confessed Attacker Taken To Birmingham Jail By Soldiers After Hearing

Montgomery

HUNTSVILLE, ALA., April 29.—(AP)—A dozen tear gas bombs exploded by National Guardsmen, dispersed a throng about the courthouse here today as Walter Miller, negro, was arraigned for the capital crimes of assault and murder of pretty Vivian Woodward.

Miller, entering a plea of innocent, heard his case set for trial May 11 by Judge Paul Speake. Troops, armed with machine guns, rifles and the tear gas, cleared the area about the courthouse.

After his arraignment they placed him into one of 10 army trucks, and started a return trip to the county jail at Birmingham, where Miller will remain for safekeeping pending his trial.

Two Spectators Arrested

Tear gas was used after several members of the throng about the building began hooting the troops. No one was injured, but two spectators were placed under temporary arrest until the troops left with their prisoner.

Miller, apprehended in Terre Haute, Ind., will be defended by Edward Johnston and Tom Layne, Huntsville attorneys appointed by the court after the negro said he had no one to defend him.

Authorities announced Miller had made a full, signed confession in the Birmingham jail several weeks ago. It was given before nearly a score of officers and newspapermen, who heard him recite details of the attack on the white girl March 28.

Miss Woodward, 19, died without regaining consciousness after she was found back of a private garage. She was waylaid shortly before midnight as she returned, alone, from a movie.

Miller Trembles

Miller sat trembling and nervous between Guardsmen at today's court proceedings.

He was accompanied here from Birmingham by 112 National Guardsmen. The caravan arrived at the courthouse before most Huntsville residents had the slightest inkling the negro was to be brought here today.

Troops were called here March 29 to protect four negroes after they had been rescued from a mob by officers. The negroes were caught in a cabin after bloodhounds followed a trail from the scene of the Woodward crime almost to their door.

They were taken to Birmingham for safekeeping and released after the Grand Jury returned indictments against Miller.

Huntsville, Ala., Builder
May 1, 1936

ATTACK MADE BY GUARDSMEN NOT JUSTIFIED

The attack made upon a group of citizens numbering possibly 100 by members of the National Guard Wednesday morning was not in a way any more justifiable than the attack made recently upon Miss Vivian Woodward, by Walter Miller, negro. Actions taken by guardsmen following the setting of the trial of Miller, was wholly unwarranted, unjustifiable, and unless the commanding officer who instructed those boys to throw tear gas bombs indiscriminately, and without cause or justification is reprimended by Gov. Graves, and a repetition of such conduct is avoided here the morning of May 11th, just what will happen no one can predict.

I happened to be one of the group of approximately 100 citizens who was standing on the outside of the court house fense on the east side of the square Wednesday morning when I observed the Miller negro being loaded into a truck from the south side entrance of the court house. There was no disorder, no one was making any advances or even threats. When along came two guardsmen and spoke very very abruptly to those present, the spokesman for the two saying in substance, scatter and scatter now. The two swinging their big guns around indiscriminately. It was at this point some one in the crowd of peaceable citizens, made the remark, "Ain't you a little rough old fellow." Then the two guardsmen began to use vile words and make advances into the crowd, they being followed or reinforced quickly by many additional guardsmen who begun to throw tear gas bombs in every direction. I had been shot at before, but this was my first experience to get gassed. And I hope it will be my last as it was anything else but pleasant, To get gassed myself was not what I objected too mostly. What made my blood boil was to see additional innocent bystanders in the way of women and children including one highly respected aged citizen standing and passing on the side walk east of the square be made a victim of a heavy barrage of gas. A large hole in a tin sign over Hill Grocery Store is now there to show for itself. This hole was made as the result of the discharge of a gas gun. Just three feet above the hole cut through the tin sign were both women and children looking out the window. I presume the guardsmen who fired this particular shot of gas would have felt like a fool had it struck one of those small children who were looking out the window. To permit such a demonstration as occurred here Wednesday to go unnoticed by the chief executive of Alabama will have a tendency to cause law abiding citizens to have a utter disrespect for the lawful enforcement of any law.

I do not favor such action, do not recommend the taking of simular action, and do not approve of the deplorable instance that occurred at Shelbyville, Tenn., a few months back. However unless much more diplomacy is used by the commanding officer in charge of the national guard units to return here with Miller May 11th, than was used Wednesday, we are likely to see a repetition occur right here in Huntsville of what happened at Shelbyville, Tenn., only a few months back, and all of you know what that was.

Had those citizens present on the square Wednesday, been advancing towards the truck in which the Miller negro had been placed with the view of seizing such negro, or had any one in the crowd been disorderly in any way it stands to reason they should have been repulsed or ordered in a manful way to scatter. But as it was no martial law had been declared, no one had been warned not to appear on the public square, and those present who received a severe gassing, including myself have a just right to be indignant. And are indignant over the manner in which they were attacked. My attention was called Wednesday afternoon to a copy of a purported telegram alledged to have been sent to Governor Graves by Joe Van Valkenburgh, copy of such telegram having been reproduced on the front page of the Times and reading as follows: "I wish to protest against the use by troops of tear gas in our city today. There was no apparent disorder and there was no justification of this high handed way of treating our people." In the first place before I would believe such a message as above reproduced was sent to Governor Graves by Van Valkenburgh, I would have to see a certification of same made by a local manager of one of the two telegraph companies. And if such message was sent to the governor, I am confident, after the sending of such message Joe called the chief executive over the phone and informed him to ignore the facts mentioned therein as he merely sent him such a message for political purposes only.

Now Joe it is perfectfully all right for you to continue and make any points or gaiins politically that you can, provided you discuss and confine your remarks to matters pertaining to the conduction of the office you seek. But old fellow my advice to you is, in face of the grand stand play or free performance you put on immediately following the murderous attack made upon Miss Woodward, you had better draw in your cards and not make any further mention as pertaiining to this serious matter. Now please accept this warning in the manner in which it is given to you.

Was glad to note that no New York lawyers, nor lawyers representing the International Labor Defense showed up here Monday to represent or defend Miller. It was wise they did not. And none of this gang had better show up here the morning of May 11th. And while I am on this subject I might add no one can criticise or other wise censure Attorneys Johnson and Layne for defending Miller. Under the circumstances this responsibility had to fall on the shoulders of some two local lawyers appointed by the court and as it so happened this unpleasant duty to perform fell on the shoulders of Johnson and Layne.

Violence Feared At Negro's Trial

Advertiser

Four Companies Of Militia Ordered For Huntsville Hearing Starting Today

5-11-36

Montgomery, Ala.

HUNTSVILLE, ALA., May 10.—(AP)—Apprehension prevaded this city today as the State, behind guns of national guardsmen, prepared to try tomorrow Walter Miller, huge negro accused of the fiendish attack and killing of a white girl.

Miller, held for safekeeping in the jail with the "Scottsboro" negroes at Birmingham, was to be brought here by train tonight by four companies of militia.

Every precaution was taken to prevent a recurrence of the mob spirit which flared when pretty, 19-year-old Vivian Woodward was waylaid the night of March 28, attacked, mutilated and left dying behind a private garage.

Militia and State motorcycle patrolmen were concentrated here the day after the crime to aid local officers, and tear gas bombs were exploded to disperse a mob which seized four negroes. These negroes were taken to the safety of the Birmingham jail and were freed when Miller was captured at Terre Haute, Ind., and was reported to have confessed the crime.

Tear gas was used again to scatter the crowd which gathered about the courthouse when the giant Miller was brought here for arraignment. The negro pleaded not guilty.

Solicitor John McEachin who will prosecute Miller said the State had "an ironclad case" against him, adding: "I don't see how he can escape the electric chair." Both criminal attack and murder are punishable by death in Alabama.

Ed Johnston and Tom Layne, Huntsville attorneys appointed by Judge Paul Speake to deefnd the negro, stated:

"We have conferred with the defendant and he insists he knows nothing of the case. We are not planning to ask for a change of venue."

Judge Speake has cautioned against violence.

Huntsville, of about 12,000 population, is a neighbor city to Scottsboro, from which the internationally known "Scottsboro" case took its name. In the latter case nine negroes are charged with assaulting two white girls aboard a freight train five years ago. These girls were Huntsville textile mill workers.

Birmingham, Ala. News
June 15, 1936

A Letter Of Gratitude To A Courageous Sheriff

A dispatch from Clayton, Ala., last Friday told an interesting and unsual story. Nathan Beauchamp, a Negro serving a life sentence in Kilby Prison for slaying a white man near Eufaula last September, wrote a letter to Sheriff John Pitt Williams, of Barbour County, expressing his gratitude for the sheriff's "heroic deed" in saving him from possible mob violence.

"After being silent since Sept. 19, 1935," the Negro began his letter, "there is an impulse that forces me to drop you a line of gratitude.

"Your courtesy and protection rendered me through your interest will always stand out most in my life. I am doing fine physically. I am persuaded to say that I have almost recuperated and I owe most of it to you, because had not you manifested the said interest in me, I would have been deceased also.

"Please accept these words of thanks from one who appreciates your heroic deed to me most highly."

Of course, any prisoner who has been protected from danger by an officer of the law would be bound to feel grateful, and doubtless this gratitude has been expressed orally in many instances. One wonders, however, if, in such circumstances, there have been very many cases in which the feeling of gratitude has prompted such a letter as this. Sheriff Williams has reason to prize this letter.

The circumstances of the case were that the Negro engaged in an exchange of pistol shots with the man whom he killed, and himself suffered four wounds in the chest. The Negro was taken to a Eufaula hospital for treatment, and a crowd of several hundred persons gathered in the streets around the hospital. Feeling was said to have been high against Beauchamp.

Sheriff Williams prevented possible trouble by taking the wounded man in his car and making a dash for Kilby Prison at Montgomery, going alone with the Negro. This was cool thinking and brave action in an emergency.

In due time the Negro was tried, convicted and sentenced for his crime. How much better was this than it would have been had there been mob violence!

Such examples of courage on the part of officers of the law deserve recognition and commendation. This sort of faithfulness to duty and bravery in the performance of it would often prevent lynchings. When officers of the law all know that public opinion will support them in such action and be appreciative of their fidelity to duty, there will be more officers like Sheriff Williams.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
NEWS

JUN 15 1936

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Lynchings - 1936
Prevented

Alabama

5418

Ozark, Ala., Star
June 17, 1936

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—Birmingham News.

Birmingham Post
Birmingham News 7-16-36

ANNISTON CALM AND GUARDS QUIT TOWN

Special Grand Jury Session To Consider Attack

ANNISTON, July 16.—(Special.)—National Guardsmen were withdrawn from Anniston today as the city's temper went back to normal after the excitement of the manhunt for Roosevelt Collins, Negro, confessed attacker of Mrs. Joel Hill.

Collins, held in Kilby Prison, Montgomery, was to be questioned today by Sheriff Pete Cotton and Chief Deputy Norman Summer on the suspicion that he may have been connected with the attempted assault July 3 on Virginia Hollingsworth, 18-year-old Anniston girl.

Circuit Judge R. B. Carr ordered the Calhoun County Grand Jury to convene Monday to consider Collins case.

Chattanooga Times 7-15-36

NEGRO ADMITS ATTACK; MILITIA IS WITHDRAWN

ANNISTON, Ala., July 15.—(AP)—Withdrawal of state troops began today as this city, where race feeling flared to dangerous proportions, settled to its usual peaceful way.

Meanwhile, a negro accused of attacking a white woman was placed in Kilby state prison.

At Montgomery, Walter K. McAdory, chief of the state highway patrol, announced the negro, Roosevelt Collins, confessed he dragged a young farm wife into a woods near Alexandria, Ala., Monday, and attacked her.

[illegible]

Negro Rescued From Mob By Soldiers, Police

Machineguns Mounted At Anniston As Hundreds Seek Accused Attacker

Fighting In Streets

Prisoner Is Spirited Away And Headed To Kilby By Highway Patrolmen

ANNISTON, ALA., July 14.—(AP)—State troops mounted machine guns about the county jail here late today as a throng of several hundred men milled about the streets after the arrest of a negro suspect in an attempted attack of a white woman.

The negro, who authorities said gave the name Roosevelt Collins, was started to Kilby State Prison, Montgomery, by State highway patrolmen.

Rumors that he was lodged in jail here added to tension which had been high throughout the day. National Guardsmen, ordered out by Gov. Graves to "arrest and protect" the negro, attempted to clear the streets.

The guardsmen were hard pressed and Graves ordered an additional company here.

White Men Arrested

Seven white men were arrested on disorderly conduct charges, and another was bashed on the head. The latter's name was not learned as he was taken away in an ambulance.

Negroes were chased through the streets during the day, as residents became impatient over the apparent failure of the two-day swamp hunt for the man suspected of the attempt to attack Mrs. Joe Hill, farm wife of the Alexandria community.

Adjt. Gen. John Coleman, in command of the troops here, said the negro was arrested in an Anniston negro residential section, at the home of an aunt.

Before news of the arrest spread, Capt. Potter Smith and a detail of State patrolmen were en route to Montgomery with their prisoner.

Negro Not Wounded

Coleman said Collins was not wounded. The negro sought in swamplands near Alexandria wounded one member of a posse slightly in an exchange of gunfire, and was believed wounded himself.

As the tension here eased slightly, Coleman instructed local officials to release the seven men arrested during the day. The sporadic fight between whites and negroes resulted in no serious injuries so far as authorities knew.

The additional guardsmen ordered out tonight were sent from Birmingham, equipped with tear gas bombs, grenades, machine guns and automatic rifles.

Prevented by guardsmen and State patrolmen from entering the swamp into which the negro fled yesterday, citizens thronged Anniston streets today. The militia blocked the area near the county jail and allowed no one to pass who did not have business in the vicinity.

Struck By Rocks

Authorities said they had reports several negroes were struck by rocks thrown by white youths.

Capt. Potter Smith, in charge of the State patrolmen, and Chief of Police Rutledge, put men into the streets immediately upon hearing of the outbreak, with orders to arrest persons responsible for the disorders.

Capt. Smith reported further he had definite proof the negro was wounded in an exchange of shots with possemen yesterday, when one posseman suffered a slight wound.

Another report received by authorities said a shotgun and a pair of overalls were found today near a negro cabin. The hunted negro earlier had been described by possemen who flushed him as being armed with a shotgun and pistol.

Troops Requested

As feeling gathered heat, Judge R. B. Carr telephoned Gov. Graves who immediately called two companies of militia and directed a concentration of State patrolmen here. The Governor's order was to "arrest and protect the negro."

The search bogged down last night, however, as bloodhounds from Kilby Prison, Montgomery, failed to pick up a trail. Lookouts were stationed about the swamp throughout the night, and the search resumed at dawn.

Graves received a report from Coleman, at Camp McClellan here, that the guardsmen, numbering about 100, were "combing" the woods in which a posse reported yesterday the negro was surrounded.

"The men are deployed as skirmishers and are marching through the woods 20 paces apart," said Graves, a World War colonel.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
SUN

JUL 15 1936

JAIL WALLS SAVE NEGRO FROM MOB

AlabamaPosseTracksDown White Woman's Assailant.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., July 15 (U. P.).—Roosevelt Collins, a thin, trembling Negro of about 32, was hidden in Kilby State Prison today from a mob determined to lynch him for an attack on Mrs. ~~Lulu Mae~~ Hill, twenty-five-year-old white woman.

Mrs. Hill confronted him and identified him, before he was taken to prison, in a small hotel in Birmingham, where officers held him from late yesterday until 1:30 A. M. today.

The Negro arrived at the prison in pitiable physical condition from twenty-four hours of flight through swamps and woodlands about Anniston, Ala., before a mob of 1,500 furious pursuers. Twelve hours after he was captured on a road eight miles from Anniston, he still was caked with swamp muck, his eyes were bloodshot and his clothing literally was almost torn from him.

He denied the crime of which he was accused, although the police said he did not speak when Mrs. Hill stepped up to him in the Birmingham hotel and said:

"That's the man. I'll never forget him."

Mrs. Hill, mother of three children, was attacked on Monday while working in the garden of her farm home near Anniston. A neighbor woman saw her dragged from the garden into a wood, but was unable to summon help.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.
TIMES UNION

JUL 14 1936

MILITIA CALLED TO PROTECT MAN HUNTED BY POSSE

Colored Fugitive Is Accused of Attacking Woman and Shooting One of Mob.

By MAYNARD STITT
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

Anniston, Ala., July 14.—Two National Guard companies and more than 500 farmers with every conceivable weapon, from shotguns to hoes, began a new search through 50 square miles of swamp today for a colored man who attacked Mrs. Josephine Hill, 25-year-old white farm woman, and shot a posseman who cornered him.

Military and civil authorities took elaborate precautions to prevent the mob of angry farm men and boys from lynching the man should he be captured. Chief Deputy Sheriff Norman Summers transferred another negro accused of an attack on a white girl to Birmingham for safekeeping after a mob surrounded the Anniston jail.

The homes of every colored person in Anniston will be searched today.

Keep Movements Secret

Adjt. Gen. John C. Coleman and Sheriff Pete Cotton attempted to keep movements of 120 National Guardsmen and 50 deputies secret to prevent the mob from following them.

The soldiers, who beat through miles of dense, moss grown undergrowth for hours last night, withdrew from the area suddenly at midnight and disappeared.

Reports flew through Anniston and the countryside that the fugitive had been captured or was surrounded in a negro shack in the swamp and was being held for removal after daybreak.

Sheriff Cotton denied that he or the National Guard had any trace of the man, but said he was certain he had not escaped through a cordon that has surrounded the great swamp, with men stationed every few yards along 30 miles of encircling roads, since Mrs. Hill was attacked.

Mother of Three

The man assaulted the young woman, mother of three children, while she was working in the garden of her isolated farm home. He threw a dirty, ragged coat over her head.

"Don't scream," she said he commanded her. "If you don't scream I won't hurt you."

He was a short, "skinny" man, Mrs. Hill said, but had "terrific strength." Mrs. Hill is above the average height for women but the man handled her like a child. He dragged her, with her head smothered in his coat, to a nearby woods. There he attacked her, she said.

Mrs. D. E. Randall saw the attack from her neighboring farm home. She ran to the Hill house as the assailant dragged Mrs. Hill into the woods, screaming for Mrs. Hill's husband. But he was in Gadsden and Mrs. Randall had to run a half-mile to a filling station to give an alarm by telephone.

100 Armed Men Hunt Mississippi Fugitive

Toccopola, Miss., July 14.—Nearly 100 armed men kept guard over roads around Toccopola today to prevent the escape from a restricted river bottom area of Fred Bearman, colored, accused of attempting to attack a young white woman.

Deputy sheriffs lay in wait for Bearman around his shanty home and beat the river banks for miles. Bloodhounds led the posse from the scene of the attack to Bearman's home.

The woman attacked, a Mrs. Patterson, whom Sheriff O. D. Patterson refused to identify more definitely, was awakened Sunday night by a man sitting on the edge of her bed. Her husband was away, but her three-year-old child was asleep in a crib in the room with her.

She screamed, broke away and ran to a neighbor's home. The negro fled.

Sheriff Patterson said he had been told that residents of the district planned to lynch the assailant if he were captured, but said he believed he could prevent it.

Massachusetts Posse Hunts Girl's Assailant

Plymouth, Mass., July 14.—A posse of 200 volunteer possemen hunted unsuccessfully over the wild Cornish meadows today for a man who attempted last night to attack Roberta Ketchum, 19, daughter of a Plymouth market owner.

The man seized Miss Ketchum on a dark street last night, threw her over a fence into the yard of an unlighted house, and threatened to kill her if she made an outcry.

Miss Ketchum broke away from him but suffered a wrenched back and neck in efforts by the man to gag her with a bandana handkerchief.

She said the man had accosted her on Plymouth streets twice before, attempting to make a "date." He was about 30, she said, and shabbily dressed.

State Troopers Quit Anniston Fifth Time As Tension Eases

ANNISTON, ALA., Aug. 12.—(AP)—State troopers, called to Calhoun County five times within a month, rode away again today as quiet gathered over a rural area fraught two days by rampant racial feeling.

The militiamen, 100 in number, were stationed at nearby Jacksonville last night, ready for any eventuality.

They were ordered out after race indignation caused official fears of serious aftermath to the shooting of three white men Monday night as they approached the cabin of Art Bush, negro, during widespread search for an unidentified negro accused of attempting to kidnap a white baby.

Pat Hicks, shot in the abdomen, was in a grave condition tonight, and Forney Martin suffered dangerous wounds. The third white man, Albert Hicks, was not seriously hurt.

Meanwhile, Art Bush, in a Birmingham jail where he was taken for safekeeping following his surrender, was reported by Chief Deputy Sheriff N. L. Summers to have admitted he fired into the group of men which approached his house.

Grave apprehension gripped the Lloyd's Crossroads rural area last night, after members of a crowd of armed men, dispersed by State highway patrolmen at noon, warned they would reassemble in multiplied strength.

Bush's wife and five children were taken to the county jail for their safety. The woman told officers white men had threatened her with hanging. A few hours earlier a barn at Bush's home burned mysteriously.

Quiet began to settle after the negro surrendered last night.

Racial feeling first was excited in Calhoun County July 13, when a white farm wife reported a negro dragged her into a woods and attacked her. Negroes subsequently were rocked in the streets of Anniston, and State troops were called to preserve order. Roosevelt Collins, negro, was captured and hustled away to Kilby Prison.

The guardsmen returned when Collins was arraigned, and again when he was tried and sentenced to death.

Troops were sent into the county as a white girl in another rural section reported a negro had accosted her and made an improper proposal. No arrest was made in this case.

Last night's troop movement was the fifth in the county, but so far the race situation has been without a fatality.

The negro sought for attempting to abduct the white baby had not been found tonight, authorities said. The baby was not hurt, the mother reporting the intruder fled as she wielded a hammer.

A group of State highway patrolmen remained on duty here. Gov. Graves at Montgomery, announced demobilization of the troops after getting a telephone report on the situation from local authorities.

A hospital superintendent said Hicks, one of the wounded, was "just hanging on," and had no chance to live, as complications set in.

Sergt. G. W. Burke, Deputy Sheriff J. M. Bunn and Hugh Fitzgerald, court reporter, visited Hicks to take a statement.

"You realize you are going to die?" Burke asked.

"I do," Hicks mumbled feebly.

"Who shot you?"

"Bush," the officers reported the interview.

"Art Bush?"

"Yes."

"Who shot first?"

"Bush did," said Hicks.

Hicks hardly was able to talk and officers did no further questioning.

Judge R. B. Carr said tonight Gov. Graves told him by telephone the State fire marshal will be sent to Calhoun County to investigate the burning of the barn at Bush's home.

Calhoun Anniston, Ala.

Rioting Flares In Anniston As Negro Is Jailed

Rioting in Anniston, Ala., late last night with several persons shot, was reported in Montgomery early this morning by Walter K. McAdory, chief of the State's Highway Patrol.

Definite information from Anniston was not immediately available.

Chief McAdory stated he had ordered a dozen available highway patrolmen into Anniston at once from surrounding territory. They were to be reinforced as quickly as patrolmen could be contacted, he declared.

The trouble last night was understood to have grown out of a drunken negro's insulting of a white woman earlier in the day. The negro was hurried to a Birmingham jail for protection.

This is the second racial trouble to flare in the neighborhood of Anniston within the last month. Roosevelt Collins, negro, is now under sentence of death for assault upon a white woman near Anniston.

Calhoun Anniston, Ala.

Lynchings - 1936
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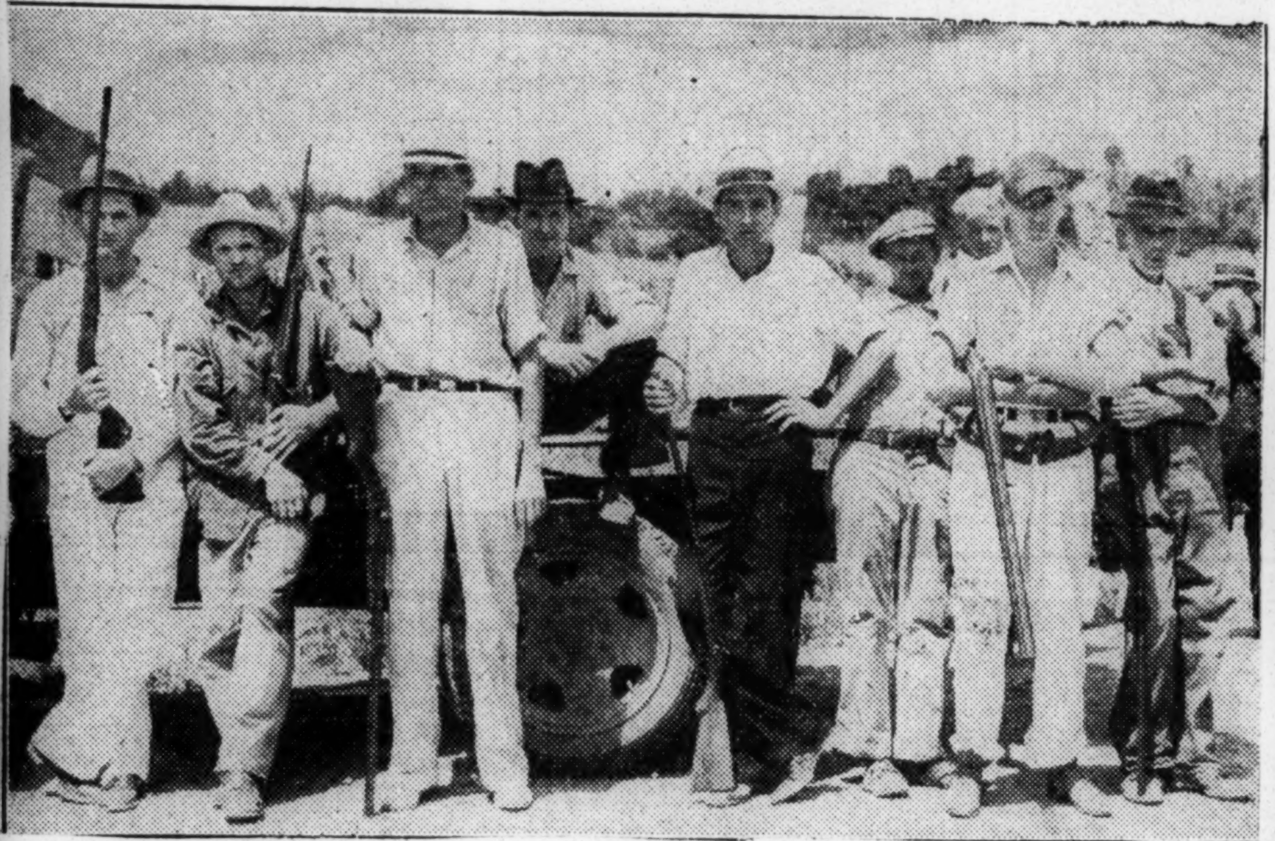
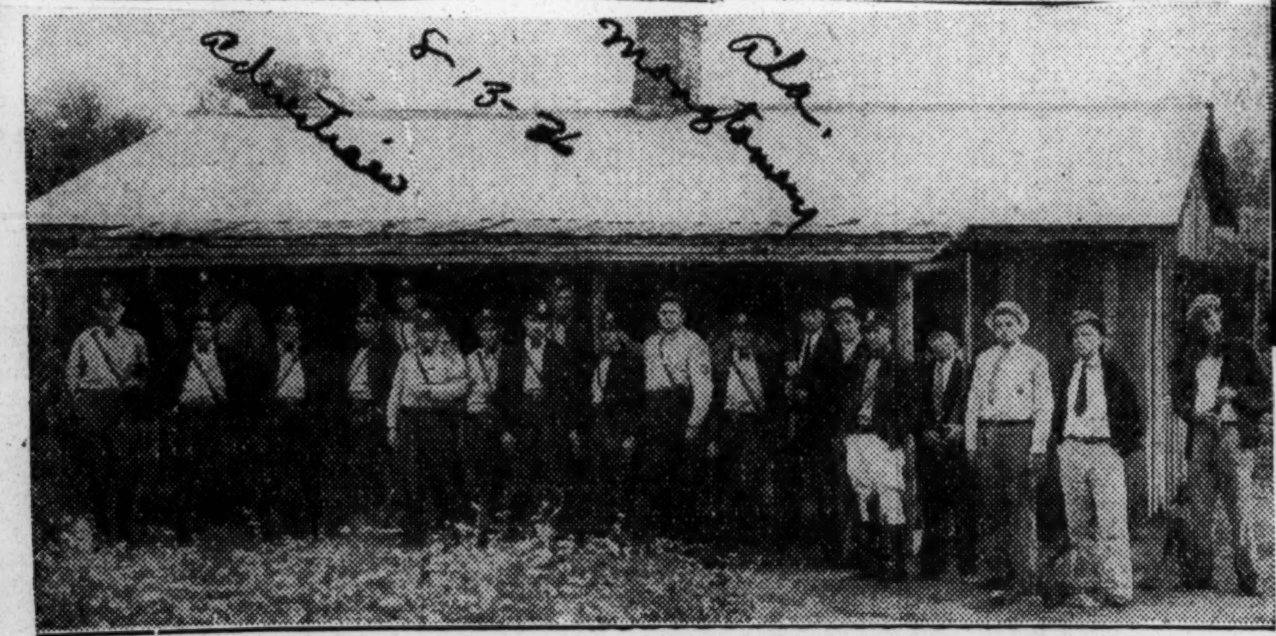
5419

As Race Feeling Flared Again In Calhoun County





Advertiser 8-13-36 Montgomery, Ala.

For the fifth time in a month race feeling in Calhoun County had cooled last night under the guns of National Guardsmen and the State Highway Patrol. Here are some of the views of the most recent outburst, which followed on the heels of a negro's attempt to kidnap a white child.

Top: The posse, seeking the alleged kidnaper, which was disarmed by highway patrolmen. Guns later were returned to members of the group upon their promise to disperse.

Center: The spark that set off the most recent burst of race feeling was the attempt to kidnap the white baby shown above with the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ullman Williamson.

Below: Highway patrolmen with posse members at the home of Art Bush, negro, where three possemen were shot down when Bush opened fire on them. Bush is now in a Birmingham jail for safekeeping.

'They Shot At Me First,' Anniston Negro Declares

Birmingham Post 8-12-36

Prisoner Held In Jefferson County Jail Admits That He Fired On White Possemen—But 'Only After My House Was Riddled With Their Bullets'

Birmingham, Ala.

A thin Negro tenant farmer, Art Bush, told today how, in a fit of fear and anger growing out of tense racial feeling, he shot and perhaps mortally wounded two white men he considered his "friends" after the latter, he asserted, fired first into his farm home near Anniston.

The 40-year-old Negro, held in Jefferson County Jail for safekeeping after his arrest in Calhoun County last night by State Highway patrolmen, denied emphatically that he had any knowledge of the suspected kidnap attempt by a Negro for whom Bush's victims and a half-dozen fellow possemen were searching at the time of the shooting.

He also contended he did not recognize any of the possemen at the time of the shooting late Monday night.

Only after his arrest last night after 24 hours of hiding in a swamp near his home, he said, did he learn that his shots had critically wounded Forney Martin and Pat Hicks and slightly injured the latter's brother, J. A. Hicks.

Claiming he shot in defense of his home "because I was scared and mad. too." Bush contended that he was roused from his bed by the possemen "cussing and trying to kick the door down."

In the house with him at the time, he said, was his wife, Mary, and their six children, ranging in age from seven to 14.

"I got up from bed and got my shotgun," the Negro continued. "They kept cussing and kicking at the door and I said, 'Wait a minute white folks, who is you?' and one of them said, 'I'm the high-sheriff from Leatherwood.'

"I asked him to wait a minute but before I could say anything else they started shooting through the door. They shot first. I reckon they shot three shots before I shot any.

"I shot twice through a window with my shotgun and then went out the back door and made one more shot with my shotgun and two with my pistol after I got in the yard. Then I ran to the woods."

The Negro said he had been visited about a half hour before by a group of possemen and had allowed one of the white men to search his home for the kidnap suspect.

"The first bunch of men was nice enough," he related. "Mr. Louis Hard was with them. He said he wanted to search my house. He said a Negro man had picked up a white woman's baby and kissed it and then threw it down.

"That was the first time I had heard anything about it.

"I told Mr. Louis, 'I'm going to let you search my house but I'm not going to let but one of you in. He said 'All right, Bush,' and then searched the house and they went away."

He said he refused to admit the entire group because of fear engendered by reports of alleged mistreatment of Negroes in that vicinity following a recent attack on a white woman in another section of the county by Roosevelt Collins, Negro later convicted for the assault

Soldiers Sent On Another Anniston Riot Expedition

50 Birmingham Guardsmen Ordered To Join State Patrolmen In Curbing Mob Reign Threat After Posse Burns Barn, Intimidates Negro Woman

Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.

8-12-36

By KENNETH GREGORY
Associated Press Staff Writer

ANNISTON, ALA., Aug. 11—(AP)—State troops were called here tonight as fears spread that mob reign might bring a violent culmination to racial indignation enveloping the shooting of three white possemen at a negro house.

Fifty Birmingham guardsmen were ordered here to supplement 37 State patrolmen, as armed men were reported "running around" the outlying Lloyd's Crossroads area.

Col. John T. Moore, assistant adjutant general, came here by plane tonight.

Meanwhile, at Montgomery, Chief Walter K. McAdory, of the Alabama highway patrol, announced Art Bush, negro sought in connection with shooting of the three possemen, had surrendered, and was being taken to jail at Birmingham, Ala.

The racial tension, already taut from a series of difficulties between segments of white and negro residents of Calhoun County, reached a dangerous level late last night as the white men were shot near Bush's home, during a search by over 100 possemen for a negro reported to have attempted abduction of a white baby.

A barn at Bush's home burned mysteriously today and the negro's wife told authorities a group of armed men threatened her with hanging unless she told who was at the house last night besides Bush.

The negro woman said the crowd warned that 500 men would return tonight. She expressed fear her home would be burned. Officers brought the woman and her five children to the Calhoun County Jail for safekeeping.

All available officers stood guard tonight against reappearance of the angered men.

At noon today, State patrolmen dispersed 50 men at Lloyd's Crossroads, in a rural area a few miles from Anniston, but as the men departed one shouted:

"We'll be back!"

The patrolmen disarmed several men but returned the weapons on assurance their owners would go home and put them away.

One man in the crowd was arrested and hustled off to jail, without formal charge, after calling to the State officers: "We'll get some more negroes while we're over here."

Wild excitement, fanned by a series of recent racial difficulties, gripped the population of Lloyd's Crossroads last night after the shooting. Armed possemen combed the woods and early today Chief Deputy Sheriff N. L. Summers expressed fear of a lynching if the civilians captured the one or more negroes they believe responsible for the violence.

Lynching Predicted

"The possemen," Summers stated, "will certainly lynch him if they get him before we do. We hope we can find him and get him out of town. Then things will quiet down."

The State Highway patrolmen and local officers succeeded in disbanding the armed citizens, and the tension eased—until a crowd reassembled at the crossroads about noon. The patrolmen acted quickly to disperse the new throng, but this time the anxiety lingered on the threat "we'll be back!"

Before the men departed Capt. VanBuren Gilbert, of the patrol, in firm tone, told them carrying of arms by civilians would not be tolerated.

Notwithstanding, several white men with weapons were seen later in the day walking along roads removed from the patrol zone.

Last night's gunfire was the climax of a series of racial disturbances in Calhoun County. State militia recently patrolled the streets here to guard against an open clash between segments of white and negro residents, following the arrest of a negro accused of attacking a white woman. Guardsmen took position about the court house a few days later as the negro was tried and sentenced to death.

The troops were rushed here again as a white girl reported a negro made an improper approach.

Attempted Kidnaping

Frayed nerves of some citizens had not quieted when the report of an attempted kidnaping of a white baby by a negro spread over the crossroads countryside. The reports had it that Mrs. Ullman Williamson early last night encountered the negro in her home holding her baby, and that she threw a hammer at the intruder, causing him to flee. The child was not hurt.

Mary Bush, wife of the negro sought in connection with last night's shooting, reported their barn blazed mysteriously and was destroyed while a group of armed men threatened to hang her with a chain unless she told them "who else was here last night besides Art," the husband. The shooting occurred near Bush's house.

"They threatened to put that chain (pointing to a small chain on the porch floor) around my neck and choke me if I didn't tell them who was here besides Art," the Bush woman said.

"I told them just like I told everybody else, there was nobody else here."

Promised to Return

"I'm afraid to stay here for they said they'd be back tonight and said they'd have 500 and make me 'tell a better story.'

"I done got scared now. I'm afraid they will set my house on fire and burn me and my children to death.

"Art is gone and he won't be back," the mother of five children under 15 said, and expressed belief "they have already killed him."

Patrolmen and other officers were in a different locality when the crowd called at the negro's home.

Judge R. B. Carr reported the incident to Gov. Graves at Montgomery, resulting in ordering out the 10 additional patrolmen.

McAdory Sends Additional Men To Anniston Scene

Immediately after he was informed yesterday that a mob of between 75 and 100 men had burned a barn owned by a negro, in the Blue Mountain community of Calhoun County, and had threatened to kill every negro found there after nightfall, Chief Walter K. McAdory of the State Highway Patrol, dispatched a detail of 10 Patrol officers from headquarters here to reinforce the 27 others already on the scene.

In the late afternoon Gov. Graves, when asked what was the last information he had received regarding the disorders in Calhoun, said he had just talked to Circuit Judge R. B. Carr at Anniston, and that feeling was still running high. Queried as to the likelihood of troops being sent to aid Patrol and local officers, he declined to comment. It became known later, however, that Col. John T. Moore, assistant adjutant general, had gone to Anniston to confer with Judge Carr.

Decatur Negro Is Sla
After Fight At Station

DECATUR, ALA., Aug. 11—(AP)—A negro tentatively identified as Pate Puryne of Sheffield, was shot to death early this morning by Patrolman Jess Elkins of the Decatur Police Department.

According to information gathered by Chief of Police C. M. Riggsbee the negro engaged in an altercation with a white man at the union railroad station here and police were called. Elkins answered the call and the negro was reported to have run with the officer pursuing. The officer said he fired when the negro halted and pulled a razor, the shot taking effect in the negro's chest and causing instant death.

Lynchings - 1936
6
Prevented

Alabama

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IN WHICH WE VENTURE TO PRAISE THE STATE OF ALABAMA

In a sympathetic, if ironical comment, on recent events in Alabama, The Baltimore Evening Sun says:

> **At Huntsville, Ala., yesterday, Sheriff's deputies and city police fought their way into a mob that had seized four negroes charged with the murder of a white girl and was about to lynch them. The officers rescued the four and lodged them in jail. Later, when the mob threatened to attack the jail, officers laid down a barrage of tear-gas bombs and broke up the attack.**
>
> **This is especially remarkable because it happened in Alabama. Five years ago a threatened lynching was stopped at Scottsboro, in Alabama, with the result that the State has been subjected to vilification, worry and expense ever since. If Alaama had resolved never again to stop a lynching the resolution would have been understandable, even if not justifiable.**
>
> **But in spite of Scottsboro, Alabama has prevented another lynching. We begin to believe that the State has definitely made up its mind that it doesn't like mob murders and is going to get rid of them.**

For many years Alabama has been trying to eschew mob violence. In the last quarter century there have been several years in which no successful act of mob violence occurred.

For a very much longer time Alabama Governors have thrown the weight of their office against the mob.

Not in its whole history has Alabama had a Governor who condoned mob action.

Alabama has had some Governors of great character and ability, it has had some who were less great.

No Governor of Alabama has ever ridden into office as a condoner of mobs!

Several Governors of Alabama have taken action against weak officials and against foolish citizens aroused by the will to mob.

No Governor of Alabama has ever been indifferent to the mob spirit, none has cultivated it for his own benefit. Not one.

Alabama has never elected a "nigger-hatin'" Governor. Not one. It has elected occasionally a "nigger-hatin'" man to one house or another of Congress—but never a Governor of that type.

Take the present Governor of Alabama, Bibb Graves. He has been Governor twice. In his first term he achieved considerable reputation by virtue of his promptness in acting against mobs. He never hesitated to call out the soldiers to disperse mobs and protect prisoners. Sometimes he acted when it probably was not necessary.

The Governor of no State, North or South, has a better record as a foe of lynchers than Bibb Graves. He is quick to call out the guard. Other Alabama Governors before him had the same fine sense of public responsibility. It is a tradition in Alabama that Governors are against mobs.

Upon two recent famous occasions county officials in Alabama have acted in the best tradition of civilized government to protect "niggers" charged with the highest of all crimes known to the Deep South.

First, Scottsboro, second, Huntsville.

In the first instance a gallant and intelligent sheriff saved the lives of a band of men charged with The First Crime from death—they were men who had never lived in Jackson County, they were charged with assault upon women who had never lived in that hill county.

They could have been lynched in many counties—they were not lynched in High Jackson.

But High Jackson has lived to see itself libelled and humiliated on every continent nevertheless.

It has seldom been praised by a commentator outside of Alabama for its restraint in the face of torrential passion.

Officers in Huntsville the other day conducted themselves bravely and brilliantly in face of passions that nobody down this way knows how to quiet except by force and subterfuge.

In both instances nobody was lynched. In both instances everybody was abused by people living beyond the borders of Alabama—that is, everybody except the men accused of rape and murder.

O world, take the witness!

Advertiser Montgomery Ala

GUARDSMEN SPIRIT NEGRO INTO COURT

Roosevelt Collins Rushed To Anniston And Returned To Kilby Prison

Quietly and without incident, a detachment of 50 Montgomery National Guardsmen commanded by Capt. John A. Schneider, yesterday transferred to Anniston for arraignment and returned to Kilby Prison. Roosevelt Collins, negro, under indictment for criminally assaulting Mrs. Joel Hill, wife of a Calhoun County farmer. The negro's trial was set for Monday, Aug. 3, by Circuit Judge R. B. Carr. At that time, Adjt. Gen. John C. Coleman said, an adequate force of guardsmen will be on hand to assure the maintenance of order while the trial is in progress.

In charge of the escort of troops, Collins arrived at Anniston early yesterday morning, and was arraigned at 10 a.m. in a courtroom that was practically deserted. Motion of defense counsel to quash the indictment on the ground that negroes were systematically excluded from the Grand Jury that returned it—the same ground on which the U. S. Supreme Court reversed the "Scottsboro cases"—was overruled by Judge Carr when the clerk of the county jury commission and a member of that body testified that the names of negroes were in the jury box from which the Grand Jury was drawn. The judge also overruled motion for postponement of the trial date, on the basis of newspaper accounts of the tension that prevailed in the county immediately following the assault which occurred on July 13.

A crowd that at one time totalled more than 1,000 citizens, engaged in the hunt for Mrs. Hill's assailant who had fled into a nearby swamp, and one man was wounded in an exchange of shots with the negro who was later arrested in Anniston by sheriff's deputies. Collins was turned over to a detachment of State Highway Patrolmen who with National Guard troops had been ordered to the scene to "arrest and protect" the negro, by Gov. Graves.

The prisoner was taken first to Birmingham, where he was later positively identified by his victim. Brought to Kilby for safekeeping, it was announced the following day that Collins had made a complete confession to the crime, to Capt. Potter Smith of the Highway Patrol in the presence of several other witnesses.

Advertiser Montgomery [illegible]

NEGRO DENIES ATTACK CHARGE

Pleads Not Guilty When Arraigned; Troopers Give Protection

By United Press.

ANNISTON, July 28.—Protected by the machine guns of National Guardsmen from the Birmingham battalion, Roosevelt Collins, Negro, pleaded "not guilty" here today when arraigned on a charge of criminally attacking Mrs. Joel Hill at her farm home in northern Calhoun County, July 13.

Aug. 3 was set as the trial date. The Negro, who State Highway patrolmen say confessed the assault, was rushed here from Montgomery early today under cover of darkness and the protection of National Guardsmen. He had been held in Kilby Prison since his capture July 14.

Courthouse Guarded

He was taken to Talladega last night or early this morning. There a number of guardsmen who have been held on duty since an outbreak of labor violence last week took him to Anniston.

Thy threw a cordon of guards around the Calhoun County Courthouse here and permitted no one to enter without express business within the building.

At 8 a.m. Judge R. B. Carr convened the Calhoun Circuit Court. A half hour was consumed in the arraignment proceedings and Collins was hustled back to the waiting guard and returned to Kilby.

Venue Change Denied

The suddenness of the arraignment and the thoroughness of the military rule of the guardsmen precluded any possible attempt at violence on Collins, who was hunted by a huge posse of armed citizens, sheriff's deputies, highway patrolmen and National Guardsmen, after the assault was perpetrated.

A motion to quash the indictment charging Collins with the assault on the grounds that Negroes had been excluded from the grand jury was overruled. Members of the jury commission testified the names of Negroes had been on the list from which the jury was selected.

The defense then moved for a continuance of the trials, introducing newspaper accounts of the assault and pursuit of Collins to prove that feeling here would prevent a fair and impartial trial. This motion was overruled. A change of venue motion also was denied.

[illegible]

GUN BRANDISHED AT ATTACK TRIAL

Telegraph

Husband of Alleged Victim Makes Effort to Shoot Negro as He Testifies

8-4-36

ANNISTON, Ala., Aug. 3 (AP)— A Negro accused of attacking a white woman was convicted and sentenced to die today shortly after the victim's husband created a sensation by brandishing a pistol in the militia-guarded courtroom. Macon

Judge R. B. Carr set the execution date for Friday, Sept. 4. The jury deliberated 20 minutes. Ga.

National guardsmen immediately started with the Negro, Roosevelt Collins, for Kilby state prison at Montgomery. Court spectators were required to remain seated until they had left with him.

The woman's husband, an Alabama farmer, produced the pistol while Collins was testifying in his own behalf. There was a moment of wild commotion as a state highway patrolman seized the weapon. It was not fired.

Husband Removed

Militiamen hurried the Negro into an ante-room.

Order was speedily restored and the trial resumed after the husband had been removed from the courtroom.

The pistol was drawn as the Negro testified he approached the victim near her rural home, asked her a question and "she started walking into the woods with me."

The woman, as the first witness against the Negro, had testified he attacked her.

By quick action of troops, patrolmen and local authorities, order soon was restored and the trial proceeded. How the husband got into the chamber with the gun was a mystery, as everyone entering, including newspapermen, had been searched for weapons.

Local attorneys, appointed by the court to defend the Negro, quickly sought a mistrial on the sensational courtroom development, but their motion was overruled by Judge R. B. Carr.

Selma. Ala. Times
August 5, 1936

A GOOD WORD FOR ALABAMA

At Anniston, Ala., yesterday Judge R. B. Carr appealed to "all fair-minded citizens" to cooperate with the authorities in giving an orderly, legal trial to Roosevelt Collins, a negro charged with an attack on a white woman. The authorities have not relied entirely on the judge's eloquence, however. There is a ring of bayonets around the jail where the prisoner is confined.

Recent history indicates that Collins will be judged by due process of law. Alabama seems to have made up its mind that the lynching of negroes is going to be stopped. The presence of the troops is evidence of that determination. The grave and earnest words of the judge are evidence of it. The attitudes of the press and of the leading citizens of the state are evidence of it. .And if the state is really determined, then there will be no lynching.

This resolution that the courts, and not mobs, shall administer the law is so fine that one regrets all the more that Alabama has not seen fit to extend it to cases where, as at Gadsden recently, white labor organizers, and not negroes, are the victims of the mob.—The Baltimore Evening Sun.

The outbreak at Gadsden in no respect resembled a lynching, but was a clash between a group of non-unionist workers in a rubber plant and union organizers from Ohio, whose intrusion they resented. Of course, the employers, the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company were credited with fomenting the attack, but this is the old inference that is drawn whenever similar incidents occur. The proof is plentiful that the workers in the plant who are drawing the highest wages they have ever received, want no disturbance of the status quo. While mob action is never justifiable, the collission at Gadsden was dissimilar in no particular from other labor outbreaks which have occurred in other states times without number.

Anniston. Ala. Star
August 4, 1936

The Law Triumphs

The forces of law and order have won a signal triumph in Calhoun County and vindicated the contention of those who have held that all crimes, however heinous and revolting, should be punished through the orderly process of the courts. It has been demonstrated once more that it is not necessary for citizens to take the law in their own hands in order to bring swift justice to a man accused of offenses against womanhood or other acts that outrage the sensibilities of all our people.

In the quick trial and sentence of a Negro for assaulting a white woman, the authorities of Calhoun County yesterday gave what should be assurance to citizens of this section for all time that they can wait for the law to take its course in all such cases with confidence that the guilty man will receive the punishment he deserves. The handling of the trial set an example for the state and nation and Calhoun County today stands before the world with a clear and praiseworthy record.

Judge R. B. Carr and other officials who saw to it that the Negro was given a fair trial and the complete protection of the law are to be commended and congratulated on their conscientious and fearless performance of duty. Calhoun County likewise is indebted to Governor Graves, the officers and men of the National Guard and the state highway patrol for their assistance before and during the trial—assistance rendered at a time when the small local forces were inadequate to handle the situation.

A word of commendation also should be given in behalf of the local attorneys who served as defense counsel for the accused Negro and saw to it that he was given the benefit of every doubt under the laws of the state. These attorneys had no choice in the matter, having been appointed by the court to perform this duty, and gave their time to the case at the neglect of their own business without any compensation whatever in order that justice might be accorded even to a confessed criminal.

In short, all thoughtful citizens will rejoice that the case was disposed of and the proceedings carried on in orderly manner in accordance with legal proceedings in the state and that Calhoun County, through the courageous work of constituted authorities and those who assisted them, has been spared what might otherwise have been a stain on its record that years could not efface.

Newport News. Va. Press
August 6, 1936

COURT CONTEMPT IN ALABAMA

The other day in Anniston, Ala., in the tria of a Negro man charged with assaulting a whit woman, the husband of the victim brandishe a pistol in court, aiming it at the prisoner. Polic seized the weapon and the owner explained late that he had delayed firing for fear of hurtin someone else than the prisoner, who was testifying at the time. The gun removed, the trial proceeded, the prisoner being duly sentenced to the electric chair.

At this distance, and on the facts, this action appears a clear case of contempt of court, the more pronounced because it was a deliberate act. Weapons had been properly barred in the court. There had been threats of mob violence in the case. Spectators were searched by the court officers and every precaution had been taken to avert trouble. Premeditatedly, the husband of the assault victim had smuggled in the gun. It must have been his purpose, carefully thought over, to interrupt the due processes of the law whenever opportunity offered.

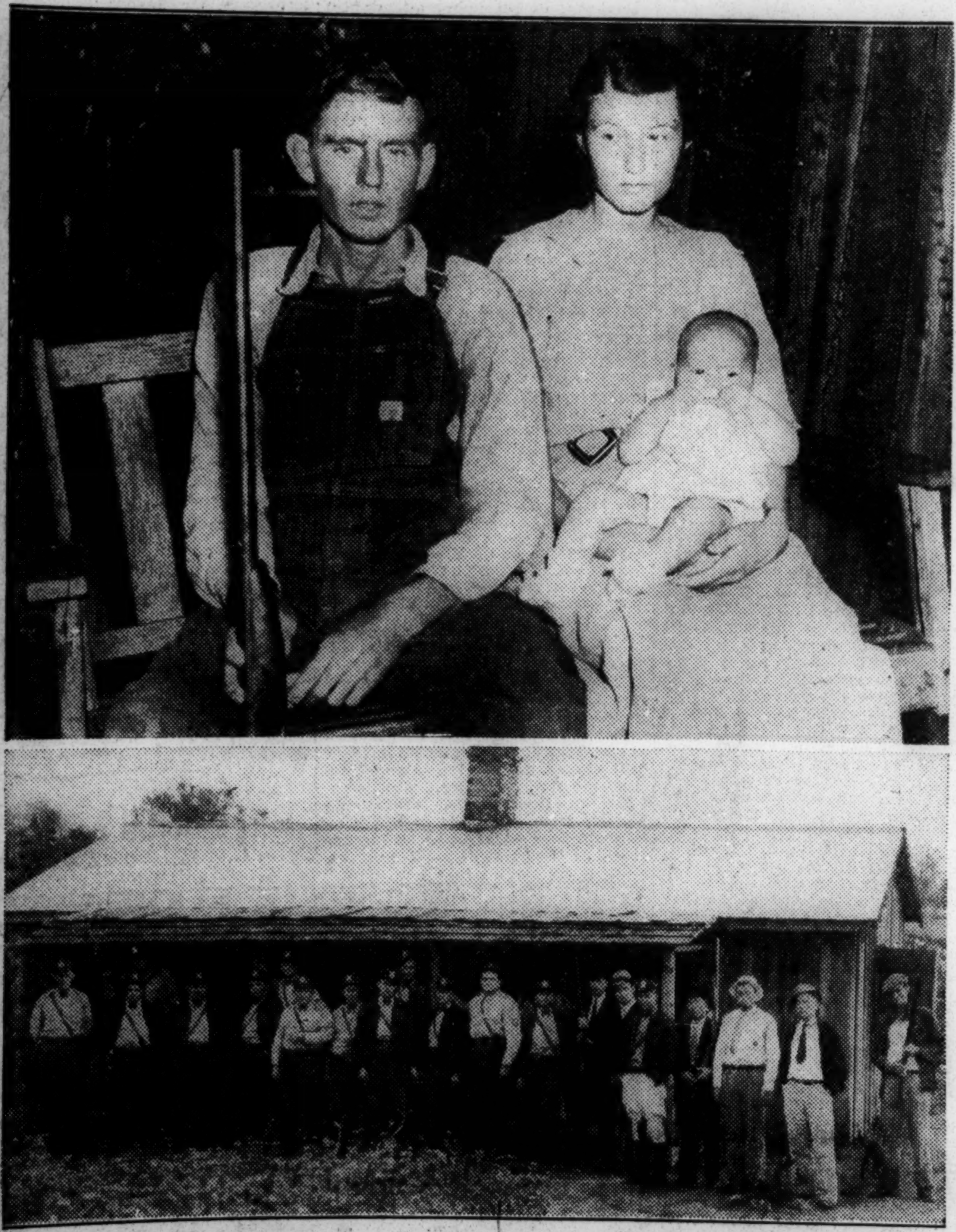
But did the court, as we would naturally conclude, punish the offender? Here is the rest of [illegible]uliar story: The judge in the case allowed [illegible]ender to go free, calling him up after th trial and assuring him that he had been guilty of contempt of court but would not be punished "under the circumstances." That, of course, is the court's business, but we doubt if it would have been so conducted in any other court in the land. Certainly, this is a most unusual occurrence and few jurists, we believe, would be likely so to rule, whatever the "circumstances." Is this not an invitation to other parties at interest at other trials where the same feeling may be present, to create trouble that will be more serious than that at Anniston? It certainly looks so.

Lynchings - 1936
Prevented

Alabama

5421

Troopers Leave Alabama Trouble Area As Quiet Reigns; Posseman Near Deat



Thirty state highway patrolmen joined dozens of possemen in the hunt for the Negro believed to have done the shooting. At top are Mr. and Mrs. Ullman Williamson who reported a Negro attempted to abduct their baby which is shown with them. Below highway patrolmen are shown with posse members at the home of Art Bush, Negro, where the shooting took place. (Associated Press Photo.)

Following an asserted kidnaping attempt against a white baby and the shooting of three members of a white posse at a Negro's home, mob action was feared for the third time in a month at Anniston, Ala.

Telegraph
8-13-36
Macon Ga

ANNISTON, Ala., Aug. 12 (AP)—State troopers, called to Calhoun county five times within a month rode away again today as quiet gathered over a rural area tense two days with racial feeling.

The 100 militiamen, were stationed at nearby Jacksonville last night, ready for any eventuality.

They were ordered there after race indignation caused official fears of a serious aftermath to the shooting of three white men.

The men were shot Monday night as they approached the cabin of Art Bush, Negro, during a search for a Negro accused of attempting to kidnap a white baby.

Pat Hicks, one of the wounded was in a grave condition tonight. Forney Martin suffered dangerous wounds also but the third white man Albert Hicks, was not seriously hurt.

Meanwhile, Art Bush, in a Birmingham jail where he was taken for safekeeping after his surrender, was reported by Chief Deputy Sheriff N. L. Summers to have admitted he fired into the group of men which approached his house.

Apprehension gripped the Lloyd's Crossroads rural area last night, after members of a crowd of armed men, dispersed by state highway patrolmen at noon, warned they would reassemble.

Bush's wife and five children were taken to the county jail for their safety. The woman told officers white men had threatened her with hanging. A few hours earlier a barn at Bush's home burned.

Quiet began to settle after the Negro surrendered last night.

NEGRO SUSPECT IS TRANSFERRED

Conflicting Reasons Given In Moving Murder Suspect From Geneva Jail

By United Press.

DOTHAN, Oct. 2.—Officials today gave conflicting reasons for the transfer of Harrison Brooks, Negro, indicted for first degree murder of Mr. and Mrs. Will Grantham, an elderly couple at Oak Grove, more than a year ago, from the Geneva Jail to the jail here.

The court order for the removal signed by Judge Robert S. Reid of Gevena said the transfer was for "safekeeping." However, Sheriff W. C. Rabster of Geneva said he wanted to separate Brooks from two other Negroes indicted in the murder to forstall any attempt to "frame up" a story of the slaying.

The Granthams were found dead in their home, their heads beaten in, Sept. 4, 1935. The Negroes were arrested this Summer.

The other two Negroes, held, are Pete Brooks, Harrison's half brother, and Booker Washington. Patrolmen said that Harrison Brooks had confessed but the other two denied participation in the crime.

Alabama.

5422

Lynchings - 1936
Prevented

Negroes Safe In Birmingham Jail

Advertiser

Huntsville Feeling Wanes As Hunt For Slayer Of Young Woman Pushed

3-31-36

Montgomery Ala.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., March 30—(AP)—Wrested from a maddened mob four negroes, suspects in the brutal attack and murder of a pretty Huntsville, Ala., girl were jail mates tonight of the world-known negro "Scottsboro" defendants.

Meanwhile, at Huntsville, 140 miles north, the mob spirit fired by the savage crime had waned.

The four negroes were taken from a house where two sets of bloodhounds led possemen on a trail picked up behind a private garage, where Miss Vivian Woodward, 19, and blonde, was dragged, attacked and left to die.

They were brought here from Huntsville for safekeeping.

The nine "Scottsboro" negroes also held in the jail on the eighth floor of the courthouse here for their safety, were accused of attacks upon two white girls aboard a freight train near Scottsboro, Ala., five years ago.

No charge had been placed against the four new arrivals at the jail.

Miss Woodward was waylaid near her home as she walked alone from a picture show Saturday night.

Huntsville authorities questioned a fifth negro and broadcast a lookout for another of giant build and wearing a number 11 shoe. Large footprints were found at the crime scene.

When the dying girl, her head mutilated, was discovered at dawn Sunday, after a search throughout the night, indignant citizens assembled hastily. Bloodhounds were summoned from nearby Scottsboro, Ala., and Chattanooga, Tenn. The mob spirit flamed as the hounds followed a trail to the negro house.

Huntsville authorities and State Highway police acted quickly. The four negroes—one with a wire about his neck.—were rescued and placed in jail under heavy guard, for safekeeping.

As the mob began to reassemble about the jail, Gov. Graves at Montgomery, ordered a concentration of State motorcycle patrolmen here, and followed through by calling out three companies of State militia.

Tear gas bombs finally were exploded to scatter the mob. Then, late at night with order restored, 24 guardsmen and three State Highway patrolmen spirited the negroes to Birmingham, arriving about dawn.

At Huntsville, investigators were seeking to establish ownership of a bloody vest they reported they found near the house occupied by the negroes.

Huntsville saw no signs today of a recurring mob movement and the guard companies were dismissed.

Troops Ordered As Fiend Killing Stirs Huntsville

Advertiser

Pretty Girl, Assaulted And Fatally Beaten, Found After Night-Long Search

3-30-36

4 Negroes Seized

Montgomery Ala.

Rescued From Mob, One With Wire About Neck; Governor Posts Reward

HUNTSVILLE, ALA., March 29—(AP)—Tear gas was employed tonight to disperse a mob milling about the county jail where four negroes were held in connection with the brutual assault and slaying of pretty, blonde, 19-year-old Vivian Woodward.

Gov. Bibb Graves at Montgomery, called out three troops of National Guardsmen to protect the negroes.

Authorities said the four were taken from a house to which bloodhounds followed a trail picked up near the spot, behind a private garage, where Miss Woodward was found at dawn—attacked and dying of a crushed skull.

A vest spotted with blood was reported by Deputies Hill Milner and Latin Carroll to have been found in a ditch in the rear of the house.

State Highway patrolmen joined local authorities in coping with the mob, pending the arrival of the guardsmen. The patrolmen, police and deputies reported after the tear bombs were exploded that the mob disbanded.

Sub-machine guns and more tear gas was held in readiness, however.

Troop Report

The State troops, from Huntsville, Athens and Hartselle, Ala., reported to the local barracks late tonight, under the command of Major Edwin Jones, of Huntsville, and awaited further orders. Troop "B," of Athens, was led by Lieut. Francis H. Armstrong; Troop "C," Hartselle, by Capt. Joe W. Burleson, and Troop "A," of Huntsville, Capt. Howard Burns. Capt. Van Gilbert, commanding the 11 State highway patrolmen who rushed here, said "the situation seems to be in hand, and there appears little prospect of further trouble." Miss Woodward disappeared last night when she attended a picture theater alone.

Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Woodward, became alarmed when she failed to return, and at midnight called the police. She was found unconscious after a search throughout the night. Public indignation flared immediately.

A posse of hundreds of citizens was formed, and bloodhounds were brought from Chattanooga, Tenn., and Scottsboro, Ala. The possemen were armed principally with rifles and clubs.

The first clue discovered was a blood stained brick, on the sidewalk near the garage where the pretty girl was found. Blood spots on the ground led from the brick to the garage. The brick was examined for fingerprints.

When the bloodhounds picked up a trail and followed it to the house occupied by the negroes, mob spirit flared. The local authorities and State patrolmen, however, succeeded in taking the negroes from the angered men, and placed them in jail for safe keeping. No charges had been placed against the negroes.

The county solicitor informed Gov. Graves of the crime, and he immediately posted a reward for capture of the assailant, ordered additional State highway patrolmen to the scene and called the national guard troops.

Hit by Brick

Deputies of the sheriff's office said the girl was struck on the head by the brick, probably thrown at her on the walk, and then dragged to the rear of the garage, where she was beaten and attacked.

Hair found at the attack scene was taken as a possible clue, since not all of it matched Miss Woodward's.

The girl never regained consciousness before she died this afternoon. She was last seen on a down town street about 10:30 p.m., leaving the theater.

Her father said:

"Vivian had no sweethearts. She was allowed to go to the movies whenever she wanted to, and to come home alone. Uusually when she went out she was with either her mother or myself," She was an only child. Her mother collapsed.

Coroner H. C. Laughlin, after an inquest, said there was evidence of assault and that death was caused by some blunt instrument.

Late tonight authorities gave the names of the negroes held as Eugene Hambrick, 24, James McCalley, 19, Woodrow Wilson, 19, and Ira Jolly, 17.

NEW YORK SUN

MAR 30 1936

4 NEGROES SAVED FROM LYNCHING

Accused of Attacking and Killing a Girl.

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., March 30 (A. P.).—Closely guarded by National guardsmen and State police, four Negro suspects, saved by prompt action of civil officers from a possible lynching in the slaying of nineteen-year-old Vivian Woodward, were rushed to Birmingham today.

Although mob spirit, fired by the attack and slaying of the pretty blond daughter of a Huntsville city official, seemed to have subsided, it was decided to take the prisoners to Birmingham, 140 miles away, for safe keeping.

Mob action against the prisoners was averted shortly after their capture late yesterday.

Local officers and highway patrolmen rescued the four men and later used tear gas to disperse a crowd that gathered around the jail. Gov. Bibb Graves later ordered three companies of National guardsmen here. One of the Negroes had a wire about his neck when taken from the mob.

Bloodhounds, picking up a trail at the scene of the attack behind a private garage, police said followed it to the house occupied by the Negroes.

In a ditch near the house deputies said a blood-spotted vest was found.

Miss Woodward disappeared Saturday night after attending a picture theater alone. At dawn, after an all-night search, she was found, attacked and dying, her skull crushed. She died Sunday afternoon without regaining consciousness.

Men armed with rifles and clubs followed the officers' bloodhounds and anticipated the authorities in taking the Negroes at their house.

Before the mob could act, however, the local officers and State patrolmen rescued the suspects and rushed them to jail.

Chattanooga, Tenn. Times

April 1, 1936

LYNCHING PREVENTED.

The recent experience of the people of Huntsville, Ala., constitutes an irrefutable argument in support of the contention that lynching is a futile demonstration of lawlessness. The murder of a 19-year-old girl in that city last Sunday was a crime which might easily have led to mob violence. She had been attacked and beaten to death.

Police officers led by bloodhounds followed a trail which led to a residence in which there were four Negroes who were arrested. In the early excitement there were reports that inside the house incriminating evidence was found. Twenty lynchings occurred in this country last year, and it is doubtful if one of them resulted from stronger circumstantial evidence than appeared to have been discovered by the Huntsville police officers. In a news story reporting the arrests and the reaction of the citizens, The Huntsville Times said:

> To Lee Woodward, a Meridian street merchant, and one or two other men whose names could not be learned, credit was given for averting a lynching when the suspects were snatched from a house where officers had twice been led by bloodhounds from a State convict camp at Scottsboro, and from Chattanooga. Some 300 or 400 men were in the crowd and a wire had been placed around the neck of Eugene Hambrick, 24, oldest of the four, when the officers reached them.

Sheriff F. H. Hereford and the officers under his command deserve the highest praise for protecting their prisoners against the threatened violence of a mob. It is a tribute to their alertness and their earnest desire to uphold the law that they reached the prisoners in time to avert a crime which would have served only to gratify the passions of the unthinking. In its news story, The Huntsville Times mads this significant statement:

> Local officers while admitting that they do not believe either of the four Negroes held in Birmingham is directly connected with the crime, are positive they will be able to get some helpful information from them. At present they are working on more clues that have developed since last night.

If the crowd of men had tightened the wire around the neck of one of the defendants, and had lynched him and the others, none of the four would have given "helpful information!" As it is, the four Negroes are in the Birmingham jail, having been removed there soon after their arrest. Mob spirit has abated in Huntsville. The people, and their law enforcement officers are better prepared to solve a crime for which the guilty should be given the full penalty of the law. And the crime of lynching has not been added to crime of murder.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.
TIMES

APR 1 - 1936

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Charlotte, N. C. Observer
March 31, 1936

IMMINENT LYNCHING PREVENTED.

GOVERNOR BIBB GRAVES and peace officers at Huntsville deserve the commendation of the citizens of Alabama and other states for their action in preventing a lynching Sunday.

After local officers had wrested three negroes from a mob and placed them in jail, the Governor was notified of the situation and promptly ordered three units of the National Guard on duty to protect the prisoners, who had been rescued from a mob by officers investigating the attack and fatal injury of a 19-year-old white girl.

It is not unlikely that but for the timely and courageous action on the part of the local officers, promptly backed up by the Governor with the use of troops, three negroes would have been lynched for a crime perpetrated by only one—and the one was not known to be either of the three.

It is not a sense of justice that prompts a mob to lynch, but a spirit of revenge, sometimes mixed with a reversion to bestiality. The mob on lynching bent is never anxious or scrupulously careful to get the guilty man. Any suspected negro is liable to become the mob's victim in such cases as that at Huntsville.

The Governor and other officers who saved Alabama from the disgrace of a lynching Sunday set a good example for officers and governors of other states, particularly some of Alabama's nearest neighbors.

Rarely does a lynching occur that could not be averted by prompt and courageous action on the part of the sheriffs and other local officers, backed by a courageous and determined governor promptly notified when the threat develops.

ARKANSAS CITY, KAN
TRAVELER

MAR 31 1936

TO ALABAMA'S CREDIT

A young woman was attacked and killed a few nights ago in Alabama.

Four young Negroes were arrested as suspects, the only evidence against them at the time being that they were tracked by bloodhounds.

The Alabama national guard managed to rescue the four from a mob which would have lynched them, and they are now safely housed in a jail guarded by soldiers.

This evidence of law and order is to the credit of Alabama. The mob didn't know whether these men were guilty. It was merely after blood. If they are guilty, the law will take care of them. And if, they are innocent, Alabama has been spared from a second crime in vengeance for the first.

N. Y. EVENING POST

APR 13 1936

4 SAVED FROM MOB CLEARED IN ATTACK

Fifth Alabama Negro Indicted as Girl's Slayer

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., April 13 (AP).—Four Negroes—saved when law enforcement agents prevailed over a flare of mob spirit—were free from jail today, after the indictment of a fifth Negro for the attack-killing of Vivian Woodward at Huntsville, Ala.

The four were seized at Huntsville two weeks ago, when bloodhounds picked up a trail where the white girl was found dying and followed it to the house they occupied.

One had a wire about his neck when authorities took him from the mob.

Huntsville officers found a No. 11 shoeprint at the attack scene. They began to lay a net for a large Negro. The search spread to Terre Haute, Ind., where a week ago Walter Miller, Negro, was arrested. He was brought to Birmingham. Shortly after his arrival here authorities reported a full confession.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
TIMES

APR 30 1936

ROUT MOB WITH GAS AT ALABAMA COURT

National Guardsmen Disperse 400 Menacing Negro Held in Murder of a Girl.

10 TRUCKS HAUL ESCORT

112 Troopers Hurry Defendant to Birmingham After Hearing, to Await Trial.

HUNTSVILE, Ala., April 29 (AP).—A menacing crowd of 400 to 500 was dispersed with tear gas today by harassed National Guardsmen after a preliminary hearing for Walter Miller, young Negro charged with the murder of ~~and assault~~ on Vivian Woodward, 19, a white girl.

A dozen gas bombs were exploded, scattering the hooting throng which surrounded the court house after the Negro was escorted here from Birmingham. It had not been generally known that he was to be arraigned.

Miller, ringed by the guardsmen carrying machine guns, rifles and gas projectors, entered a plea of innocent, and trial was set for May 11.

He was hurried back to Birmingham, where he will be held for safekeeping pending trial. His escort included 112 guardsmen traveling in a caravan of ten motor trucks. Two persons were placed in temporary custody until the prisoner had been taken away.

Miss Woodward was waylaid and bludgeoned shortly before midnight March 28 as she returned home alone from a movie. She was found back of a private garage and died without regaining consciousness.

Apprehended in Terre Haute, Ind., Miller was said by authorities to have made a full, signed confession several weeks ago. A score of officers and newspaper men listened to his recital of the attack on the girl.

Troops were called here March 29 to protect four Negroes after they had been rescued from a mob by officers. The Negroes were caught in a cabin after bloodhounds followed a trail from the scene of the Woodward crime almost to their door. They were taken to Birmingham for safekeeping and released after the grand jury had returned indictments against Miller.

Lynching-s-1936
Prevented

Arkansas

5428

MURDER SUSPECT MOVED

Fred Burnett Taken to Unannounced Jail for Safekeeping

HELENA, Ark., Aug. 6. — Fred Burnett, arrested yesterday in connection with the fatal shooting of I. C. Emrich in West Helena, has been removed from Helena to an unannounced jail for safekeeping. Sheriff Kitchens transferred Burnett after reports of high feeling against him in West Helena. Kitchens said Burnett shot Emrich after a fight in a domino parlor.

Emrich's body was sent to his former home in Hawesville, Ky., this afternoon and funeral services will be conducted there tomorrow afternoon.

MOB IS TRICKED AT HOT SPRINGS

HOT SPRINGS, Ark.—(ANP)— A tip-off to police who spirited them to safety probably saved James Austin, Jr., 21, and Castle Rye, 20, both charged with murder, from being lynched by a mob of 200 men with a battering ram, Monday.

"I knew there wouldn't be a d—n thing come of this," declared one of the would-be lynchers. "Too many were in on it, and we told our plans to the wrong fellow, whoever it is, and it done leaked out."

The last Hot Springs lynching occurred thirteen years ago when a man was taken from the city jail, strung up, and riddled with bullets in Como Hotel square.

NEGRO TAKEN FROM MOB

Suspect Held In Unnamed Jail—Believed Attempted Assault

MARKED TREE, Ark., Nov. 23.—County officers held a negro described as Darty Warren, railroad section hand, in an unnamed jail tonight after taking him from a mob that believed him guilty of an atempted assault on a woman.

Sheriff J. D. Dubard and Deputy J. F. Dobbins took the suspect from the local jail about midnight Saturday before an angry crowd appeared at the jail.

A negro accosted the woman, officers said, as she was going home to supper from the store where she is employed. She broke away from him and returned later to work after notifying officers.

As she was going home about 11 p.m., the negro grabbed her a second time at the Frisco Railway underpass back of the Marked Tree bank building. An officer hidden in a nearby yard and another on top of the underpass frightened him away. Thirty minutes later Warren was arrested at his home about a half mile from the scene.

OFFICER SLAYS PRISONER

Mountain Home Marshal Removed to Another Jail

MOUNTAIN HOME, Ark., Dec. 7.—(AP)—Sheriff Jim Martin said today he had removed Marshal Ran Deatherage of Norfolk to an unannounced jail for safekeeping due to high feeling in Baxter County over the slaying of Emory Cunningham, 60-year-old contractor.

Deatherage surrendered Saturday night following the fatal shooting at the Norfolk jail. He told officers he arrested Cunningham of Mountain Home on a charge of drunkenness and shot him in self-defense during an altercation at the jail.

Funeral services for Cunningham were held here this afternoon. The body was sent to English, Ind., for burial. He is survived by his widow, two sons and a daughter.

Lynchings - 1936
Prevented

Florida

5429

5429

TWO NEGROES HELD.

KISSIMMEE, Fla., July 12.—(AP) Two negroes were under heavy guard in jail here tonight following their arrest today for questioning in connection with an attempted assault upon a 13-year-old white girl six miles southeast of Holopaw yesterday.

THWARTS LYNCHING OF FOUR

N.A.A.C.P. Lawyer Outwits Mobbists Bent On Crime In Fla.

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA., — (By Marty for ANP) —A clever ruse by a colored defense attorney last week thwarted a well-planned lynch attempt that was to be made on the four boys in the famous "Pompano case," and secured a change of venue to another fourth retrial.

The four men, Izell Chambers, Charlie Davis, Walter Woodard and Jack Williamson, were convicted of killing a white fish dealer in Pompano, Fla., three years ago after an eight-day grilling had brought signed confessions from them. When it was proven later that they had been beaten into signing the confessions the Florida Supreme court reversed the decision of the criminal judge who had rushed thru their trial.

Acts Quickly

S. D. McGill, Jacksonville attorney who is defending the boys for the N. A. A. C. P. was the "brains" behind the upsetting of the lynch plot. Learning thru a brilliant strategy that a mob would be formed in Broward county, where the hearing for a change of venue would be sought he contrived to appear in court alone, creating the impression that he would attempt the venue change plea without having his clients in the court. When th disappointed mob had dispersed, a heavily armed truck discharged the four boys into the courtroom, the plea was entered and granted, and within a few minutes the defendants were on their way back to the state prison. McGill himself escaped a few moments later.

Barbour Farmer, 2 Negroes Held In Harder Killing

4-Month Mystery Clears As Blacks Confess Part And Implicate Others

Sensation Hinted

Arrest Of Planter Follows Quickly Announcement Of Death Puzzle 'Break'

CLAYTON, ALA., Aug. 6.—(Special.)—Florence Carr, well-to-do Barbour County peanut farmer, was arrested tonight by Sheriff John Pitt Williams and charged with the murder of Jack Harder four months ago. Carr; taken into custody at his home in the Elamville community, was placed in the Clayton Jail.

Sheriff Williams said that a murder warrant for Spurgeon Mooneyham, youth now serving a term for burglary in the Raiford, Fla., prison, would be sworn out Friday. A third suspect's name was not revealed.

The arrest of Carr in Clayton followed by only a few hours the announcement in Montgomery that two negroes, Frank Sewell and Nookie Stanford, arrested Wednesday in connection with the mysterious murder, had confessed and "implicated others,"

The announcement came from Chief Walter K. McAdory, of the State highway patrol, following the "confession." The two negroes were arrested Wednesday near Elamville, in Barbour County.

Further developments were expected to follow a conference at highway patrol headquarters here this morning between Chief McAdory, Sheriff Pitt Williams, of Barbour County; Circuit Solicitor George Andrews, of Union Springs; County Solicitor Johnston, and J. H. Linch and J. W. McClung, special investigators for the highway patrol who, with Sheriff Williams, placed the negroes Sewell and Stanford under arrest.

Confessed In Elmore

The two Barbour County negro suspects were brought to Montgomery and placed in the county jail by the officers Wednesday night, but yesterday morning were transferred to the Elmore County Jail at Wetumpka, where, it was stated, their "confessions" were made to Special Investigators McClung and Linch, and Chief Deputy Sheriff J. H. Richardson of Elmore. Chief McAdory, Mr. McCiung and Mr. Linch were out of the city last night. Nothing was made public concerning their whereabouts, but it was understood they were absent on official business and would return in time for this morning's conference.

Though nothing was made public beyond the statement that Stanford and Sewell had "confessed and implicated others," followed by the arrest of Carr, it was believed last night that the Harder case had been "broken" and that events of the next 24 hours would reveal how and when the mystery of the young Floridian's death was cleared up.

Investiation Renewed

For some time, the special investigators for the Highway Patrol have been working in cooperation with Sheriff Williams. Recently, on the posting of a reward by the father of young Harder, of $100 for the arrest and conviction of the slayer of his son, Gov. Graves authorized another $100 reward to be paid by the State for the killer or killers.

Shot through the heart, the body of Jack Harder was found beside a county road near Ozark on the morning of March 12, 1936. Nearby stood his car with the lights still burning and the motor ignition switch on. In the windshield, directly in front of the driver's seat was a bullet hole. Clutched in the dead youth's right hand was a pistol from which one shot had been fired. The coroner's verdict was murder, however, not suicide.

It has been the theory of investigating officers, it is known, that Harder was slain somewhere in Southeast Alabama and his body taken to the point in Dale County where it was found on the roadside. This theory that the murder took place elsewhere has never been relinquished so far as is known. It has been indicated also that investigators were inclined to the belief that the youth had been slain after he had "cleaned up" in a poker game or crap game reported to have been held at or near Elamville in Barbour County.

Harder's father recently was in Montgomery to see Gov. Graves, but missed the Chief Executive who was out of town at the time. He wrote to the Governor after that, declaring that his son had not been connected with the underworld or underworld characters in any way, and begging that there be no let-up in the search for his murderer.

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2 Negroes Held In Harder Death

Pair Spirited Here From Barbour County; Killing Traced To Dice Game

Two negro youths, suspected of being involved in the slaying of Jack Harder, St. Petersburg, Fla., somewhere in southeast Alabama about five months ago, were spirited away from Barbour County yesterday afternoon and brought to the Montgomery County jail for sake-keeping.

The negroes, arrested by Sheriff John Pitt Williams and J. W. McClung and J. H. Linch, special investigators for the State highway patrol, gave their names as Frank Sewell and Warren, alias Nookie, Stanford, both 18. It was understood that they were apprehended in the Elamville, Ala., vicinity.

The highway patrol officers said they had been working for some time in cooperation with the Barbour County sheriff, who, they added, had done everything possible to find a solution to the mysterious crime. They declined to elucidate upon their actions, but said they felt reasonably sure that the negroes "knew something" of importance.

A reward of $200 for the slayers of the youth was announced recently when Gov. Graves matched the $100 offered by the victim's father. Chief Walter K. McAdory, of the State highway patrol, had announced also that he probably would assign special investigators to work on the case.

Young Harder's body, with a bullet wound through the heart, was found on a country road near Ozark, Ala., March 12, and officers expressed the opinion that he had been "dumped" there after being killed elsewhere. This same theory was expressed yesterday by the officers who arrested the negroes.

Peace officers of Alabama declined to discuss the case for publication, but indicated they believed that Harder had been slain because of his winnings at a poker or dice game, reported to have been held at Elamville. When found, Harder was lying by the roadside, his car standing nearby with the switch on, and the lights burning. There was a bullet hole through the windshield directly in front of the driver's seat. The youth had a discharged pistol in his hand, but a coroner's report said his death definitely was murder and not suicide.

In writing to Gov. Graves, the youth's father pleaded that the case be solved and asserted that the victim, in no sense of the word, had been connected with the underworld or hoodlums.

Lynchings-1936
Prevented

General

5430

BALTIMORE, MD.
EVENING SUN

APR 13 1936

It's Catching

Alabama set the standard. Determined to skotch lynching, its officers prevented a mob from doing in the Scottsboro "boys." The multifarious troubles and expenses that that forthright action brought in its train did not shake the determination of Alabama to keep the State's record clean. Only a week or two ago the police battled a mob and saved for lawful trial four Negroes charged with the murder of a white girl at Huntsville.

Georgia borders Alabama to the east, and apparently the example set by its neighbor has put the authorities of Georgia, too, on their mettle. A man accused of rape was jailed in Danielsville Saturday, but before the mob could break in and get him the National Guard put in its appearance, forced through the crowd and took the prisoner off for safekeeping. Their efforts were aided by those of the local judge and local Sheriff, a clear indication that there is some public support for the anti-lynching movement.

We note the event in the hope that it augurs well for the future.

COLUMBIA, S. C.
RECORD

JUL 11 1936

PREVENTING LYNCHING.

During the first half of 1936 there were four lynchings in the United States, records compiled by Tuskegee institute show.

Three of the lynchings were in Georgia, where Governor Talmadge joins Senator Smith and the Charleston News and Caurier of South Carolina in complaining of the Democratic party that it recognizes the accomplished fact of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments. One was in Arkansas, where the share-cropper war has since flared up.

And these four lynchings of course are testimony to the fact that the lynching spirit has not yet disappeared from the South any more than it has disappeared from the Black Legion territory—the weakness of the Tuskegee statistics is that they do not classify as the lynchings they are many manifestations of the mob spirit outside of the South. But they are also testimony to the South's accomplishments in its efforts to curb and bridle the lynching impulse. Except for Georgia and Arkansas there would not have been a single lynching in the South for the first six months of 1936. With them the South's lynching record is no worse than for the first half of last year, better by two than its record in 1934.

Senator Wagner, who is one of the introducers of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, made a speech the other day in Baltimore before the Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in which he declared that only through federal legislation may lynching be ended in the United States. And many other Democrats have come to subscribe to this doctrine and to concur in Senator Wagner's declaration that the Costigan-Wagner bill does not contravene with any substantial state right, but "interferes only with mob rule." There is Henry L. Mencken, of the Baltimore Sunpapers, bitterest of all the assailants of the New Deal, who after Maryland's Eastern Shore lynching reversed his former position and throwing over all his doubts of the efficacy of federal interference in police affairs expressed during the prohibition regime appeared before a congressional committee to urge the enactment of the Costigan-Wagner bill. And there are Southern newspapers, like the Atlanta Constitution, which have come however reluctantly to the same opinion.

And if Senator Wagner's faith in his bill were justified a rather good case might be made out for the Mencken idea. There is no denial of state rights comparable to the denial of the state's right to maintain orderly government involved in resort mob law. But unfortunately perhaps the evidence is to the contrary.

"What Senator Wagner omitted from his speech," the Baltimore Evening Sun pointed out, "is the fact that lynching has been put down, not once but many times, and practically always by the same implement which is not a law, federal, state or other, but a man with guts. Sometimes he has been a sheriff, or policeman, sometimes a judge, sometimes a private citizen; but always he has had the intestinal fortitude to stand up against a mob.

"If Senator Wagner can devise a law of such magic power that it can inject stiffening into flabby men, why, then his law may put down lynching. But every federal law has to be enforced by the same sort of men who are supposed to enforce state laws."

The roots of the mob spirit go deeper than laws and until the pepole of a state are ready to stamp out lynching, by punishing lynchers and by eliminating lynching-condoning officers no mere shift of jurisdiction will prevent lynching. Convictions in the federal courts as in the state courts depend finally upon the jurors and the federal jurors like the state jurors are drawn from the people of the state who can act to stamp out lynching as well through the state as through the federal government. Ultimately it depends upon therefore upon the states and upon the people of the states in which lynchings occur. It is a state responsibility.

When the South exercises to the full the state right of preventing lynchings and punishing lynchers in such cases when lynchings may not be prevented it will have nothing to fear from any Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill or law and some of the demagogs may be hard put it for their issues.

Lynch Spirit Flares Up In Tennessee And Virginia Towns; Prisoners Guarded

Angry Mobs Yell For Blood at Dyersburg, Tennessee, And at Rustburg, Va., After Police Officials Are Wounded In Two Communities

The mob spirit reared up its ugly head in two widely separated Southern communities during the past week, the increase in the nation's lynching toll being averted only through the speedy action of police officials.

Arrested at Rustberg, Va., for questioning in the beating of a Halifax county deputy sheriff, three Ohio Negroes, were whisked to a jail in an adjoining county for safe-keeping after a large mob working itself into a lynching fury, had begun gathering in from the surrounding countryside.

RUSHED TO ANOTHER JAIL

The three men, who gave their names as Robert Gaynor, 20 of Cleveland; Roy Jennings, 23, of New York; and Richard Hardy, 21, of Cleveland, were lodged in the Chatham, Va., jail for safekeeping, pending a further investigation into a series of violences that had terrorized citizens of both races in Campbell county.

More than 400 farmers, seeking the blood of a Negro arrested for questioning in the critical shooting of a policeman, stormed the jail at Dyersburg, Tenn., on the same night, the Ohio trio were arrested in Virginia.

The jailed suspect, an ex-convict named Glen Horton, was charged with having shot Patrolman Moss Armstrong, 42, when the latter sought to quell a disturbance at the prisoner's residence.

MOB GATHERS

Horton was arrested two hours after the shooting, but his whereabouts were kept secret by Police Chief Nick Bond. When it was later learned that he was being held in the city jail, a large mob gathered in front and demanded that he be turned out.

Mayor L. D. Hamner, who was called to quiet down the mob, later told newspapermen that "we will try to keep the Negro in the Dyersburg jail, although feeling is running high."

The tenseness in the Tennessee case had lessened somewhat Wednesday, the feeling subsiding with the announcement that the wounded officer stood a more than even chance of recovery.

TENSENESS EASES

The prisoners lodged in the Chatham, Va., jail, Sheriff John W. Hatcher of Halifax County, expressed confidence late Tuesday that no mob violence would occur. He said the situation had improved after one of the jail suspects had allegedly confessed, leaving the impression that "justice would be dealt out by the courts."

The reign of terror the arrested Ohio trio allegedly created, is still the chief topic of discussion among Campbell county residents.

Beginning their exploits along a stretch of highway leading into Rustberg, the three men, who raced up and down the roads in a sport roadster bearing an Ohio license plate, left a battered deputy sheriff, an injured filling station keeper and a stripped CCC enrollee along their pathway.

News of the acts of the men spread rapidly Sunday night and Monday. Citizens joined public officials in the brief hunt for one of the men who eluded capture for about three hours.

CLUBBED SHERIFF

Commonwealth Attorney S. J. Thompson and Sergeant O. E. Snell of the state police force allegedly secured a confession from the men that they had clubbed Deputy Sheriff John W. Hatcher of Halifax county with his own club, shot a filling station keeper and stripped a CCC man of all his clothing except his underwear.

Under close questioning the men also admitted, it is reported, that they had stolen the roadster in Youngstown, Ohio. They left in its place, according to their story, another car stolen in Cleveland.

The reason for their escapade was still a mystery after the questioning was over. They asserted that they had never been in trouble before, and that they were not under the influence of liquor or drugs. According to police they talked freely about their acts.

TERRORIZED CITIZENS

The men, who terrorized Negroes and whites alike, are said to have arrived in Virginia last Friday to visit Miss Gartha Jennings, a relative of one of the party. Miss Jennings lives in Halifax, about five miles from Brookneal.

Gaynor, who was chased by the officers for three hours before his capture, clubbed Deputy Hatcher who had assisted other officers in the search for the missing man. Gaynor is reported as saying that he didn't know that Hatcher was an officer. He snatched the gun out of the officer's hands when he "came too close" and smashed it over the deputy's head.

J. C. Watkins, white, a Brookneal merchant, and John Forrest are said to have rushed to Deputy Hatcher's defense.

Tom Phillips, a CCC camp foreman, reported that he was forced into the car with the men at the point of two guns late Sunday night as he was walking along the main street in Rustburg. The men threatened to kill him for various reasons, he said. They alleged that Negroes had been killed in Virginia without cause as one excuse for their act.

UNDRESSED CCC MAN

Relieving Phillips of his wrist watch and a small sum of money, the men are reported to have released the foreman after taking off all his clothing except his underwear. They then fired at least five bullets in the direction of the foreman and he had to drop into a ditch to escape injury.

The trio also threatened to kill three CCC boys who were walking along the road from Rustburg toward the camp. Once the car stopped for one of them to fire at a Negro walking along the road. The man escaped in the woods.

Thomas Mason, a Nuruna filling station operator, was shot in the right arm above the elbow by the men after they had got gasoline at the station. After the operator had filled the car the men put out the lights and drove off without paying him.

Preliminary plans for the trial of the men have been made pending recovery of Deputy Sheriff Hatcher. Bitter feeling against the men was rapidly subsiding in this section Tuesday nght.

Lynchings-1936
Prevented

Georgia

5423

Negro Guarded By Troops As Jury Gives Him Death

John Henry Thomas Convicted of Slaying Athens Filling Station Operator

By SIDNEY ROBERTS .. ..
(Associated Press Staff Writer)

Journal 7-14 Macon Ga.

ATHENS, Ga., July 14 (AP)—Protected by national guardsmen and civilian authorities, John Henry Thomas, Negro, was convicted today of the murder of a white filling station operator and sentenced to die in the electric chair.

Thomas' trial required, about two hours. The jury was out approximately 20 minutes. He is to die in the electric chair at the Middledgeville state farm Aug. 6.

The Negro was brought to Athens from Atlanta by the guardsmen at the request of Superior Judge Blanton Fortson and Sheriff W. E. Jackson. He was returned there by the troops at the close of the trial.

No Demonstration

There was no demonstration in the court room when the verdict was received. Thomas, who made an unsworn statement denying his guilt, heard sentence pronounced without emotion although mumblying his innocence.

He was convicted of the fatal shooting of Charles L. Rice, during an attempted holdup. Rice was the proprietor of a filling station here.

After the guardsmen, 150 strong, placed Thomas in the court room and the trial opened, the troopers withdrew and only civil officers remained to guard him there.

The guardsmen, with fixed bayonets, remained on duty elsewhere in the building and outside.

Confession Introduced

The prosecution introduced a signed confession, which the state claimed was made by Thomas, in which the shooting was admitted during a robbery attempt.

Thomas, in his unsworn statement, told the court a companion committed the crime when he acted as lookout. The Negro was identified by officers as an escaped convict from Madison county.

Judge Ogden Persons presided at the trial. He required all persons with the exception of officers to remain seated in the courtroom when the prisoner was removed by guardsmen at the conclusion of the trial.

Spectators entering the courtroom when the trial opened were searched by guardsmen for weapons.

CONVOY TO LEAVE TOWER IN FULTON

Telegraph

Request of Fortson and Sheriff Jackson Is Granted by Lindley Camp

7-14-36

Macon Ga.

ATLANTA, July 13 (AP)—Two companies of national guardsmen—about 150 men—will be on guard at the Clarke county (Athens) courthouse tomorrow for the protection of John Henry Thomas, Negro, to be tried for the murder of Charlie Rice, Athens filling station operator.

Adjutant General Lindley W. Camp tonight made public an exchange of correspondence with Judge Blanton Fortson and Sheriff W. E. Jackson of Clarke county.

Camp is complying with the request of the judge and sheriff in sending the troops with the Negro, now confined in Fulton (Atlanta) county jail, to Athens and returning here with him after the trial.

The Negro will be defended by Attorneys Lamar C. Rucker, Carlisle Cobb, Jake B. Joel, Preston S. Almand and H. B. Ritchie, Jr., named by the Athens bar association at the request of Judge Fortson.

Judge Ogden Persons of Forsyth will preside at the Thomas trial and other cases coming up at the July term of court.

Died After Shot

Thomas was taken into custody about a month ago near Winder.

Rice, who operated a filling station across the street from the Athens city hall, was shot as he attempted to resist a Negro he said tried to rob him. He died in an Athens hospital.

Following is the correspondence made public by Camp.

"Athens, Ga., July 8, 1936.
"HONORABLE EUGENE TALMADGE,
"Governor of Georgia,
"Atlanta, Ga.
"Dear Governor Talmadge:

"On next Tuesday there will be tried in Clarke superior court the case of the state vs. John Henry Thomas, colored, charged with murder. We understand from several delegations of citizens who have called upon us that there is considerable feeling in the community growing out of this homicide and we believe that it will be necessary to have the state militia here at the time of the trial, to prevent any untoward incident and to insure the law taking its proper caurse.

"Therefore, we request that you have a suitable number of national guardsmen to accompany the prisoner (who is now in Fulton county jail) to Athens for trial Tuesday morning, July 14, and to remain here throughout the trial and carry him back to the Fulton county jail at its conclusion.

"The court will convene at 9 o'clock, a. m., eastern standard time.

"Thanking you for giving this your prompt attention, we are:

"Yours Very Truly,
"BLANTON FORTSON,
"Judge of the superior courts of the western circuit.
"W. E. JACKSON,
"Sheriff of Clarke county, Ga."

Camp's Letter

"Atlanta, Ga., July 9, 1936.
"Honorable Blanton Fortson,
"Judge of the superior courts of the Western circuit.
"Athens, Ga.
"Dear Judge Fortson:

"Your letter of the 8th instant, addressed to Honorable Eugene Talmadge, governor of Georgia, requesting troops of national guard of Georgia, for the trial of John Henry Thomas in Clarke superior court on next Tuesday, July 14th, has been referred ot this department.

"This is to advise that your request for troops will be complied with. The prisoner will be carried to Athens so as to reach there prior to 9 a. m., and returned to Atlanta at the conclusion of the trial.

"With best wishes, I am
"Sincerely yours,
"LINDLEY W. CAMP,
"Brigadier General, Georgia National guard,
The adjutant general of Georgia."

"Atlanta, Ga., July 9, 1936.
"HONORABLE W. E. JACKSON,
"Sheriff Clarke County, Georgia,
"Athens, Ga.
'Dear Sheriff:

"Your letter of July 8th, 1936, addressed to Honorable Eugene Talmadge ,governor of Georgia, requesting troops for the trial of John Henry Thomas, next Tuesday, July 14, in the Clarke superior court, has been referred to this department by the governor.

"This is to advise that your request for troops will be complied with.

"If it is not convenient for you to come to Atlanta, please notify the jailer at the Fulton county tower to deliver the prisoner to the national guardsmen that morning by 6 o'clock a. m., if you do not come to the tower, will appreciate if you will meet the convoy at the Clarke county line about 8 a. m. E. T.

"With best wishes. I am
"Sincerely yours.
"LINDLEY W. CAMP,
'Brigadier general, Georgia national guard,
"The adjutant general of Georgia."

Youths Placed in Tower for Safekeeping

Charged with a brutal attack on the wife of a retired army officer, Sanford Scott, 17, left, and Cecil Smith, 16, Toccoa youths, were lodged in Fulton tower yesterday. They were brought here for safekeeping.

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2 TOCCOA YOUTHS BROUGHT TO TOWER

Sanford Scott, Cecil Smith Charged With Brutal Attack on Woman.

Constitution 7-14-36

Charged with a brutal attack on Mrs. Joseph Herring, of Toccoa, Sanford Scott, 17, and Cecil Smith, 16, Toccoa youths, were brought to Fulton tower yesterday by Stephens county authorities for safekeeping.

Smith is said to have told Sheriff Fred A. Stowe, of Toccoa, that he watched while his companion beat Mrs. Herring, wife of a retired army office, with a garden implement. The sheriff charged both boys with assault with intent to murder and robbery.

The army officer's wife is still in a serious condition as the result of head wounds, it was said.

Fulton county deputies said Smith told them he confessed to Sheriff Stowe "because my conscience hurt me."

Troops Will Protect Negro in Athens Trial

Constitution 7-14-36

Adjutant General Lindley W. Camp announced yesterday two companies of the Georgia national guard would be on duty today at the Clarke county courthouse in Athens, where John Henry Thomas, negro, is to go on trial for the holdup murder of Charles Rice, Athens filling station operator.

General Camp said the troops were requested by Judge Blanton Fortson, of the western circuit, in a written communication with his office. Judge G. Ogden Persons, who is sitting for Judge Fortson this week, will preside over the trial.

The accused slayer has been held in Fulton tower for safekeeping and will be taken to Athens under guard of the troops this morning.

NEGRO IS JAILED IN ATTACK CASE

Montgomery Suspect Is Moved to Augusta Jail After Lyons Demonstration

AUGUSTA, Ga., July 21 (AP)—A Negro listed as Robert Davis, arrested in Mount Vernon, Ga., for an alleged attack on a 17-year-old white girl, has been lodged in the Richmond county jail for safe keeping, Jailor Luke H. Wilkins announced tonight.

Jailor Wilkins would not say when the Negro was brought to the jail here, nor by whom.

The girl reported she was attacked Sunday night near Mount Vernon, seat of adjoining Montgomery county. She said her assailant threw her into a shallow, dry well after the attack and pelted her with bricks as she lay in the hole. After he fled she crawled from the well.

She suffered lacerations about the head and was severely bruised but her condition was not regarded as critical.

Montgomery county officers and about 200 citizens hunted the attacker all day yesterday and at nightfall last night a Negro later booked as Robert Davis, 35, was captured in a swamp near here.

He was brought to the Toombs county jail here but as a crowd gathered Sheriff E. E. Burch had his prisoner disguised in an old suit of clothes and spirited out through the rear of the jail into a waiting automobile.

Montgomery county officers said the attack victim would view the suspect as soon as her condition permits.

NEGRO CONVICTED IN ATHENS SLAYING

Protected by 150 Militiamen, Thomas Is Sentenced To Die in Chair

ATHENS, Ga., July 14.—Protected by national guardsmen and civilian authorities, John Henry Thomas, negro, was convicted today of the murder of a white filling station operator, and sentenced to die in the electric chair.

Thomas' trial required about two hours. The jury was out approximately 20 minutes. He is to die in the electric chair at the Milledgeville state farm August 6.

The negro was brought to Athens from Atlanta by the guardsmen at the request of Superior Judge Blanton Fortson and Sheriff W. E. Jackson. He was returned there by the troops at the close of the trial.

There was no demonstration in the courtroom when the verdict was received. Thomas was convicted of the fatal shooting of Charles D. Rice, during an attempted holdup.

After the guardsmen, 150 strong, placed Thomas in the courtroom and the trial opened, the troopers withdrew and only civil officers remained to guard him there.

Thomas arrived at Fulton Tower at about 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon, accompanied by several state militiamen. He will be held in the tower to wait the death sentence August 6.

Police Guarding Alleged Attacker

Richmond Authorities Have Negro Transferred From Lyons

AUGUSTA, Ga., July 22 (AP)—Richmond county authorities today gurdad a Negro booked as Robert Davis, brought here for safekeeping from Lyons after his arrest in connection with an attack on a 17-year-old Mt. Vernon girl Sunday.

Deputy Sheriff Luke H. Wilkins, jailor, revealed late last night that the Negro was in his jail.

The girl told a story of having been attacked and then thrown in a shallow dry well and pelted with bricks.

Macon Ga Telegraph

Villa Rica Assault

CARROLLTON, Ga., July 22 (AP)—Sought on a charge of attempted criminal assault upon the wife of a Villa Rica farmer, a 50-year-old Negro booked as Jess Morgan was arrested today by Sheriff J. L. Webb and his deputies after an all-night search.

7-23-36

The Negro was captured near Temple, about six miles from the scene of the attempted attack. Sheriff Webb said the Negro lived in the back yard of the farmer's home.

Sheriff Webb said the Negro's capture was without incident. He was brought here and lodged in the Carroll county jail to await action of the October grand jury.

NEGRO HELD IN ATTACK IN JAIL AT AUGUSTA

AUGUSTA, Ga., July 22.—(AP)—Richmond county authorities today guarded a negro booked as Robert Davis, brought here for safekeeping from Lyons after his arrest in connection with an attack on a 17-year-old Mt. Vernon girl Sunday.

Deputy Sheriff Luke H. Wilkins, jailor, revealed late last night that the negro was in his jail but declined to say when he was brought there.

The girl told a story of having been attacked and then thrown in a shallow dry well and pelted with bricks.

She told oficers she recognized her assailant and will view the captive as soon as her condition permits, Montgomery county officers said.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
EVENING POST

JUL 21 1936

RUSE SAVES NEGRO FROM LYNCH MOB

Georgia Sheriff Disguises Attack Suspect and Spirits Him Away

LYONS, Ga., July 21 (AP).—A young Negro farm hand accused of attacking a seventeen-year-old white girl was held in an undisclosed jail today after a sheriff's ruse had balked mob action.

The girl reported she was attacked Sunday night near Mount Vernon, seat of adjoining Montgomery County. She said her assailant threw her into a shallow, dry well after the attack and pelted her with bricks as she lay in the hole. After he fled she crawled from the well.

She suffered lacerations about the head and was severely bruised, but her condition was not regarded as critical.

Montgomery County officers and about 200 citizens hunted the attacker all day yesterday and at nightfall last night a Negro, later booked as Robert Davis, thirty-five, was captured in a swamp near here.

He was brought to the Toombs County Jail here, but as a crowd gathered Sheriff E. E. Burch disguised his prisoner in an old suit of clothes, spirited him out through the rear of the jail into a waiting automobile and rushed him away.

2 Negroes Rescued

CHARLESTON, S. C., July 21 (AP).—Two Negro prisoners accused of slaying a police detective were whisked safely out of Charleston by Sheriff J. M. Poulnot today after a mob of 500 persons surrounded the county jail.

Sheriff Poulnot estimated the crowd at the jail, shouting for the prisoners, numbered 500 at its peak.

It gathered shortly after midnight, but had dwindled to a mere handful by 2 A. M. when the sheriff and his deputies started for the State Penitentiary in Columbia with the prisoners.

Policemen and deputies armed with rifles, tear gas, clubs and riot guns were stationed at the entrance of the jail.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
AMERICAN

JUL 22 1936

Lynch Mob Balked By Sheriff's Ruse

Farmhand Accused of Attack; 2 Others Saved in South

LYONS, Ga., July 21 (AP).—A young Negro farmhand accused of attacking a 17-year-old white girl was held in an undisclosed jail today after a sheriff's ruse balked mob action.

The girl reported she was attacked Sunday night near Mount Vernon. She said her assailant threw her into a shallow, dry well after the attack and pelted her with bricks as she lay in the hole. After he fled she crawled from the well. Her condition was not regarded as critical.

Officers and about 200 citizens captured Robert Davis, 35, in a swamp last night. He was brought here but as a crowd gathered Sheriff Burch spirited him out through the rear of the jail and rushed him away.

CHARLESTON, S. C., July 21 (AP).—Two Negro prisoners, accused of slaying a detective, were whisked out of Charleston by Sheriff Poulinot today after a mob of 500 surrounded the county jail.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
EVENING POST

JUL 14 1936

TROOPS MOBILIZED TO BAR LYNCHING

100 Militiamen Surround Alabama Swamp to "Arrest and Protect" Negro

ATLANTA, July 14 (AP).—Alabama and Georgia militiamen lined up with court officers and possemen today to forestall any threats of mob violence against two Negroes.

About 100 Alabama guardsmen camped around a swamp near Alexandria during the night before resuming efforts to "arrest and protect" a Negro hunted for an attempted attack on a white woman and the shooting of a posseman.

Two companies of Georgia, numbering about 150 men armed wtih rifles, bayonets and tear gas, mobilized in Atlanta to Atlanta to escart a Negro to Athens today to stand trial for murder.

The Alexandria man-hunt was launched Monday morning after Mr. Joe Hill reported an attempted attack in the garden of her farm home. She said a strange Negro approached her and threw a coat over her head. Her screams caused him to flee.

He took refuge in the swampland and in an exchange of shots with possemen wounded J. A. Ricks in the leg. The fugitive was armed with a shotgun and pistol.

Lynching talk spread and officers appealed to Governor Bibb Graves for soldiers. Trackdogs failed to pick up a trail last night and the hunt was suspended until dawn.

P. C

Lynchings-1936
Prevented

Georgia

5424

Athens, Ga. Times
April 12, 1936

Danielsville Mob Fails As Negro Taken By Guards

ATTEMPTS RAPE AND STABS POLICE OFFICERS

Allegedly Attacked Two White Women Near Colbert

JAIL BATTERED

Judge Mosely Stops Mob Until Guardsmen Arrive

(By Daily Times Staff Writer)

Lint Shaw, 40-year-old negro was snatched from the Danielsville jail late yesterday and spirited away to Atlanta in custody of National Guardsmen after an angry group of more than 100 Madison county citizens had battered a gaping hole in the jail wall in an attempt to seize Shaw.

E. A. Elder, Colbert policeman, is in St. Mary's hospital in critical condition from knife wounds inflicted by the negro while he was being taken to jail Saturday morning. Ralph Baird, Madison, county policeman is also recovering from knife wounds.

The story of the attempted assault on two young white girls, daughters of a well known family of the Colbert section, was told to Times representatives in Colbert.

"Near dusk on Friday evening the two girls were driving to their homes near the Mill Shoals creek. They had car trouble and began walking up the road."

"A negro jumped over a fence and grabbed both of the women. One was a 16-year old girl, the other a recently married owman of about 25."

"The youngest girl escaped and ran screaming up the road while the older girl struggled with the negro. The screams of the two women evidently frightened the negro and he finally released the women and ran across a field."

The girls proceeded to their home and reported the attempted attack. Officers Clint Drake and E. A. Elder went to Shaw's home about 9 o'clock and arrested him. A wet coat was found in the house. Shaw denied the attempt and mentioned names of others who might be suspects.

Saturday morning Officers Drak
Saturday morning Officers Drake and Elder, accompanied by County Policemen T. W. Andrews and Ralph Baird, took the negro to the scene of the crime and matched his shoes with the foot prints found there. The shoes worn by Shaw matched perfectly, they said.

Four negroes, including Shaw, were taken before the two girls and both girls immediately identified Shaw as their assailant.

Officers Baird and Elder then put the negro into their automobile and started toward Danielsville and the Madison county jail. Two miles along the road the negro suddenly whipped out a knife and stabbed Officer Elder, who was driving. Officer Baird shot Shaw who fell to the car floor as though dead.

Baird then took the wheel from the wounded Elder and continued the trip. The negro, apparently "playing dead," suddenly rose up and stabbed at Baird. Officer Elder, though wounded, shot the negro again. Baird was severely slashed on the arm and shoulder.

Examined at the jail in Danielsville, the negro was found not to be seriously wounded.

Elberton, Ga., Star
April 14, 1936

NEGRO SAVED BY JUDGE MOSELEY LAST SATURDAY

From Fury of Mob That Attacked Jail at Danielsville; Charged With Attempted Assault.

Leaving his sick bed last Saturday to quiet a mob that was storming the Madison county jail at Danielsville, Judge Berry T. Moseley ,74 years old, succeeded in quieting the mob until a six-truck convoy of National Guards arrived from Gainesville and took charge of the badly wounded negro prisoner, carried him to Athens for treatment and later to Atlanta for safe-keeping.

Judge Moseley promised the angry crowd, estimated at 150, who were milling about the jail and digging a hole through the brick wall, that he would call a special term of the court to try the prisoner who was charged with attacking a 22-year-old white girl near Colbert Friday night.

Judge Moseley also called on Sheriff T. L. Hensley to deputize the men present to assist him in maintaining the law, and after calling on the men to desist from breaking the law by attempting to break in jail, told them he personally knew many of them.

The negro, Lint Shaw, 45 years old, was shot and seriously wounded after he had attacked Chief E. A. Elders of Colbert and County Policeman Ralph Baird. Elder was carried to the Athens hospital where he was found to be suffering from a wound in the lung, and Baird was cut on the hands and arms.

The negro attacked the officers unexpectedly as they were transferring him from Colbert to Danielsville jail. After being attacked the officers shot the negro three times. In Danielsville jail an officer stated that the negro was more afraid of dying of wounds than at the hands of the mob. He was quoted also as telling County Policeman Baird, "You know I ain't the guilty man."

Friday, about sundown, a woman and two girls, one 16, the other 22, were riding near Colbert when their automobile broke down.

The woman told the girls to go to their homes, nearby. She sent for a mechanic to fix the car.

As the girls walked toward their homes, the older one said she saw a negro following. She said:

"I saw the Negro running behind us. We ran. He caught up with us near a creek. The negro slapped his hand over my mouth and got out a knife. I screamed. He hollered, 'Hush.' The girl who was with me ran for help as the negro threw me on my back in a ditch. He tore at the neck of my dress, and scratched me on the hands and legs."

Her friend returned at this point, bringiny two negro farmers
point, bringing two negro farmers who lived nearby. The attacker fled when he saw the party returning.

Sheriff Henley last night arrested Shaw. He said he "wanted to be certain I had the right man, and got one of his shoes and it fitted into the tracks. The girl also identified him."

A crowd gathered at Colbert Friday night but uncertain whether the actual attacker had been apprehended, made no effort to seize the prisoner.

Saturday the cheriff asked officers to bring the prisoner to Madison county jail. The stabbing occurred on the highway, about six miles from Danielsville

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DES MOINES, IA.
REGISTER

APR 1 4 1936

OUR HATS OFF TO THIS SOUTHERN JUDGE.

Judge Berry T. Moseley of Danielsville, Ga., is 74 years old. He was ill and confined to his bed when he learned that a mob was battering down the walls of a jail to seize and lynch a Negro prisoner.

He left his bed, went to the jail, mounted the steps and stopped the attack. It would be good drama, of course, to report that the eloquence of the silver-haired jurist prevailed over the baser instincts of the murder-minded mob And due credit must be accorded to a judge who stands out conspicuously from his southern colleagues as giving more than empty lip-service to justice.

But to anyone who has observed the almost routine course of events leading up to a lynching, and the rubber-stamp finding inevitably reported by grand juries after the death of the Negro, it will not seem cynical to suspect that what the judge said, rather than the way he said it, halted the men that faced him in the jail-yard.

He told them that he recognized many of them. He told them that in the presence of the sheriff of the county. The traditional verdict of "death at the hands of parties unknown" was automatically precluded. The judge knew the killers and the sheriff knew them and knew that the judge did. And if the sheriff knew that the judge knew that the sheriff recognized them, something more than a perfunctory attempt to bring them to justice would have to follow a completed lynching.

The explanation robs the judge's action of none of its brilliance. Of course, he did what any southern sheriff could have done, but what almost no southern sheriff ever does do. This judge put this sheriff "on the spot" by putting the wouldbe lynchers there first.

Let it be hoped that he has set a precedent for the south.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.
TIMES UNION

APR 12 1936

Aged Judge Deputizes Mob And Then Averts Lynching

Georgia Jurist Dramatically Prevents Killing of Colored Man As He Shouts at Crowd.

Danielsville, Ga., April 11.—A 74-year-old judge dramatically deputized an angry mob of 100 masked men today and thereby averted an attempt to lynch a colored man.

"I declare you all deputized as officers," Judge B. T. Moseley shouted from the ail steps to the mob which already had battered a two-foot hole in the wall of the Madison County Jail in an attempt to obtain Lint Shaw, accused of an attempted assault on a white girl.

"I recognize most of you here," the udge added.

The crowd quickly dispersed, leaving only a dozen loiterers.

Sheriff T. L. Henley previously had pleaded with the mob and then Judge Moseley came from a sick bed.

The urist pushed his way through the threatening men. He was pulling on his coat as he rushed up the ail steps.

"This is an open violation of the law," the udge shouted to the crowd. "I call on good citizens to have themselves deputized. The Sheriff will see that this mob is thwarted."

The udge, who had beenill with influenza, spoke to the crowd only a minute, but his words were effective.

"I knew the judge was sick in bed," Sheriff Henley said later, "but I knek, too, that he was the only person that could handle that mob, if anybody could handle it."

The Sheriff felt the situation was unde control.

"I recognized some of the members in that mob," the Sheriff said. "At one time I almost succeeded in dispersing them, and the leaders promised to leave. They withdrew but when they returned, I called the judge."

Grabbed a White Girl

Sheriff Henley said two white girls were walking near a field late yesterday when Shaw allegedyl grabbed one of them and threatened her with a knife. The screams of the girls frightened the negro away.

Shaw was arrested last night near Colbert. While he was being transferred to the Madison County Jail he stabbed Deputy Sheriffs G. A. Elder and Ralph Baird, Sheriff Henley said.

Elder's condition was reported as "critical" and he was taken to an Athens hospital. Elder was stabbed in the chest.

Danielsville is the center of an agricultural community near Athens, seat of the University of Georgia.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
TIMES-PICAYUNE

APR 14 1936

'Deputizing' a Mob

ONE of the year's prize awards for distinguished service, or valor, or mastery of an emergency, or something along those lines, should be awarded to the 74-year-old Georgia judge who broke up a lynching party last week by the brand-new device of "deputizing" the would-be lynchers. Summoned from a sick-bed by the sheriff, after the mob had started to batter a hole through the wall of the jail in which their prospective victim was held, the aged jurist had to think, and to act, with lightning speed and precision. Mob psychology is a fearful and wonderful thing, usually proof against appeals to reason, temporarily bereft of all respect for law.

Doubtless mindful of all this, the Georgia jurist resorted to an expedient never, so far as we recall, tried before. "I declare you all deputized officers," he shouted to the mobsters, "and I recognize most of you here!" Here was created on the instant a situation no member of the mob had ever dreamed of. It took them by complete surprise. From emotionally overwrought and irresponsible private citizens they had been transformed into officers of the law specially charged with the responsibility and duty of its protection against outrage. Their psychological reaction doubtless was completed by the judge's warning that he recognized and could identify most of them.

So, we are told, the mob "quickly dispersed," leaving only a few irresolute loiterers that the sheriff could handle. The danger of mob outrage was dispelled even more quickly than it had arisen, by the courage, quick wit and sound psychological processes of the veteran Georgia jurist, who knew his people and his duty and found a way to make them recognize theirs.

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO
TELEGRAM

APR 13 1936

A GEORGIA JUDGE

A 74-YEAR-OLD judge got up out of his sick-bed and stopped a lynching by the dramatic expedient of deputizing 100 masked men who were battering at the walls of a Danielsville (Ga.) jail.

He told the mob their masks did not conceal their identity, that he recognized them anyway. And he commanded them to "stop violating the law" and to start enforcing it. The mob melted into a shamefaced cordon of civilian deputies.

Other public officers have acted as boldly (notably William E. Borah early in his career) but have failed to turn back mobs. But a great many more lynchings have been carried out because of the default of local officers who cringed before the mob.

If we had more local officials of the caliber of this old Georgia judge, we should have fewer mob murders, and less demand that the Federal Government assume this simple police responsibility.

Macon, Ga., News
May 27, 1936

Okla

NEGRO GIRL SAVED FROM MOB ATTACK

Altus

Prisoner Accused in Fatal Shooting of White Man Is Moved to Safety

ALTUS, Okla., May 27. (AP)—A 19-year-old Negro girl, arrested after the fatal shooting of a white man, was held in a neighboring town today after officers twice repulsed a crowd of 200 that had advanced on the local jail with the victim's widow in the lead.

No charges have been filed against the girl, booked as Olivia Gardner. Deputy Sheriff E. O. Rollins said she confessed shooting S. E. Harlan, 32-year-old WPA truck driver, in self-defense after a fight.

Mob Gathers

A. W. Edwards, Altus policeman, said five oficers were posted outside the jail and two others inside when the crowd started gathering near the courthouse yesterday afternoon.

"Mrs. Harlan tried to gain entrance first," said Edwards in describing the scene.

"She was very nervous. But she didn't get past the platform at the entrance. She was talked to and helped down and no one entered the door. The deputy sheriffs and police kept them on the platform."

Edwards said the oficers had one sawed-off shotgun in sight but did not point it at the crowd. All the officers were armed, however, prepared to resist any mob action.

The crowd retreated for a short distance and a few minutes later made a second move toward the jail.

"One man spoke up like he would attempt to storm the jail," said Edwards. "A very level headed citizen spoke cooly to him, explaining why it would be the wrong thing to do. Then the crowd gave way again."

Girl Is Moved

Deputy Rollins and J. G. Cornell, policeman, hastened inside the jail, placed the girl between them and started for a waiting motor car.

"The crowd started swarming around her again but didn't try to take her from the deputies," said Edwards.

As the crowd closed in the officers shouted at the citizens to "stay back." Once in the car the Negro girl dropped prostrate in the back seat. Rollins drove away at high speed and the crowd dispersed.

Sheriff Henry A. Savage said the girl was taken to the jail at Hobart, Oklahoma.

Shot late Monday night, Harlan died in a hospital early yesterday. Officers said before he died he told them he had "gone down to get some medicine," and was returning to his home when he heard someone call him from the railroad station.

"I went over to see who it was and the next thing I knew she shot me," officers quoted Harlan as saying.

ATHENS SLAYER LODGED IN TOWER FOR SAFETY

Escaped Convict Admits Shooting Filling Station Operator in Holdup.

ATHENS, Ga., June 13—(AP)—Charles Rice, filling station operator, shot by a holdup man died today.

Rice told officers he was on duty alone last night when a negro approached and commanded him to "stick 'em up." Rice said he did not notice the negro was armed, and was slow to comply. The robber fired once and fled.

Officers said today a negro, carrying a pistol from which one shot had been fired was taken into custody today by Police Chief E. W. Wood at a service station near Winder.

They added he was arrested in an automobile which he admitted stealing immediately after the shooting Friday.

NEGRO, PUT IN TOWER, ADMITS FATAL SHOOTING

The negro arrested near Winder yesterday for the fatal shooting Friday night of Charlie Rice, Athens filling station operator, was placed in Fulton tower yesterday afternoon for safekeeping. He gave his name as John Henry Thomas, 21, and admitted shooting Rice and stealing an automobile following the attempted holdup, according to police.

Officers reported the negro escaped from the Madison county chain gang Friday and fled in a truck. He abandoned the truck and seized an automobile on the highway several miles from Winder after Rice was shot.

The convict was said to be serving a sentence for participating in a gun battle in which an Athens policeman was shot.

GEORGIAN IS HIDDEN FROM MOB

Wash

LYONS, Ga. (C)—Sheriff Burch disguished a colored farm hand accused of attacking a girl and rushed him away to an unknown jail Tuesday when mob violence was threatened. The girl claims she was attacked Sunday night. Where she had been from Sunday to Tuesday was not stated.

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Lynchings—1936
Prevented

Georgia.

5425

CONVICT ACCUSED BY JONES WOMAN

Telegraph

Negro Escape Brought to Bibb County Jail After Alleged Assault Attempt

9-16-36

Frank Taylor, Jones county Negro convict, is being held in the Bibb county jail for safe-keeping following an alleged attempt to criminally assault a white woman near Juliette Monday morning, it was learned yesterday. Macon

The Negro, a felony prisoner from Fulton county, escaped the Jones county road gang near Juliette about 10 a. m. Monday and ran into the woods.

While trailing the Negro, wardens received from a white woman reports that he had entered her home and had attempted an assault.

Pushed Woman On Bed

From his cell in the Bibb jail yesterday Taylor admitted to a newspaper reporter that he entered the woman's home, attempted to get a change of clothing, offered her "$10 to do me a favor" and pushed her over on a bed. Ga.

The woman's screams frightened the Negro away and he was captured near Juliette within a short time after his escape, still clad in convict stripes.

Taylor told a reported that he was sentenced in Fulton county in 1930 to serve 10 years for voluntary manslaughter. He had been on the Jones county chain gang since.

The Negro was brought to Macon for safe-keeping Monday night. He denied having harmed the woman other than pushing her.

Rome, Ga. News-Tribune
December 30, 1936

DALTON LYNCH PARTY HALTED AT FLOYD JAIL

Six Carloads Of Dalton Men Fail In Attempt To Obtain Negroes Held Here

ROME OFFICERS SPIRIT BLACKS AWAY FROM JAIL

Mob Very Orderly And Disperses After Being Informed Prisoners Not Here

Plans of a lynching party of six carloads of men from Dalton to take from the Floyd county jail two negroes held here on charges of attempting to rob and murder a crippled Dalton merchant were frustrated this morning between 2 and 3 o'clock when the two prisoners were spirited out of town and 14 armed officers stood on guard at the jail.

Deputy Sheriff C. I. Harris said the Dalton visitors gave no trouble at all and made no demands or threats when they saw that more than a dozen officers, including six policemen, were prepared for action against mob violence.

The cars came to the jail only about 20 minutes after the two negroes had been hastily loaded into an auto and taken out through the Fourth Ward area where they were hidden until Deputy Harris came for them after the mob had left the jail.

Deputies Harris and Payne and County Policeman Adams left with the negroes at 3 o'clock for Atlanta, following orders to transfer the two prisoners to Fulton Tower there.

Murder Attempt Failed

The negroes, Buster Dillard and Frank Simpson, were arrested after two negroes robbed Walter Schneider, crippled merchant of Dalton, and left him bound and gagged on the floor of his store. The negroes poured kerosene on the floor of the building, and then set fire to it as they fled.

Schneider escaped death by rolling through the door of his store. A physicain had to be called, however, to remove the gag which the negroes had pushed down his throat.

Dillard and Simpson were arrested near Dalton and were brought to jail here after Dalton authorities learned of the mob threats at that place.

Warned of the approach of the men this morning, Charles Gilliam, Floyd county jailer, called Sheriff Mark Horton, who ordered his deputies to speed the two prisoners out of Rome.

Deputy Harris said that no threats came from the carloads of men. Two from the group of visitors, however, approached the jail office and asked "to see the negroes, Deputy Harris stated.

Sheriff Horton told the pair that the two negroes sought were not in the jail here and offered to let anyone in the crowd who knew the negroes go through the jail and look for them. The two men said they did not personally know the prisoners, officers stated, and left without making any demands. The Dalton cars left within a few minutes after they had arrived, it is stated.

Pittman Issues Removal Order

After the mob had dispersed, Sheriff Horton conferred with Judge C. Pittman, of Cartersville, who issued a writ ordering the two negroes transferred to Atlanta.

Schneider was brought to Rome Monday and identified the negroes as the ones who robbed him and then left him bound on the floor of his burning store.

ROME NEGROES PRAISE WORK OF OFFICERS HERE

The following resolution lauding the city and county officers here for their handling of the mob threat here this morning was drafted by a group of local negroes and submitted to the News-Tribune with a request for publication:

"We, the colored citizens of Rome, say hats off to the officers of Rome and Floyd county for the brave and dignified manner in which they kept Rome's record clear of mob violence this morning.

"However, we wish to say as colored citizens we feel that any person or persons, white or black, found guilty by the law of such a brutal crime, deserves capital punishment.

Rome, Ga. News-Tribune
December 28, 1936

2 NEGROES HELD HERE TO PREVENT DALTON LYNCHING

Whitfield Merchant Narrowly Misses Death By Fire As Hold-Up Attempt Fails

Two negroes, who are alleged to have tried to burn a crippled Dalton merchant to death when their attempt to rob him failed, are being held in the Floyd county jail for safe keeping, Deputy Sheriff C. E. Warren said today.

Walter Schneider, victim of the hold-up assault, identified the two negroes, Frank Simpson, 35, and Zora Dillard, 30, as the men who drenched him with kerosene Saturday night and set fire to his grocery store after he refused to tell them where his money was hidden, officials stated.

Sheriff J. T. Bryant, of Whitfield county, ordered the negroes spirited out of town after groups of white men collected on Dalton streets and reports were circulated that a lynching was planned against the two prisoners. Simpson and Dillard were rushed to the Floyd county jail.

Schneider was seriously burned as his grocery store was destroyed in the fire started by the two bandits. With other injuries sustained when assailants slugged and kicked him, he was in a serious condition.

Bound hand and foot and left to die in the interior of his kerosene-drenched store, the grocer escaped by rolling through the flames and out the door before the blaze had spread extensively. Once outside the building, he was recued by Loren Ro, a neighbor, who had been atracted by the flame.

Schneider told police that the two negroes entered his store with a drawn pistol and demanded he reveal where he had concealed the week-end's receipts. When he refused, they knocked him down and kicked him, he said.

One negro finally thrust a handkerchief so far down his throat that a physician later was forced to use instruments to remove it.

Schneider claimed to have identified the two negroes with certainty. One he claimed was a former employe in the store and the other a negro he had known for several year.

Dublin Ga. Courier-Herald
December 28, 1936

MOB SEEKS WOULD-BE MURDERERS

TWO NEGROES BOUND CRIPPLED MAN AND LEFT HIM TO BURN TO DEATH

DALTON, Ga., Dec. 28. (U.P.)—Two negroes who bound a crippled storekeeper and left him to burn to death were held at Rome, Ga., for safekeeping today to avoid danger of mob violence.

Walter Cchneider, crippled white grocer, identified the negores—Frank Simpson and Zora Dillard—as the men who drenched him in kerosene and fired his store after their attempt to rob him had failed.

Schneider was burned seriously before he was rescued from the blazing building by neighbors attracted by the flames. With other injuries sustained when his assailants slugged and kicked him, he was in a serious condition.

Bound hand and foot and left to lie in the kerosene-drenched store, Schneider had rolled across the floor as far as he could away from the flames when rescued.

Sheriff J. P. Bryant ordered the negroes spirited out of town after groups of white men began to gather on the street.

Schneider told police the two negroes entered his store with a drawn pistol and demanded the week-end's receipts. When he refused to reveal where it was, they knocked him down and kicked him.

One negro finally thrust a handkerchief so far down his throat that a physician was forced to use instruments to remove it.

Schneider claimed the negroes he identified were well-known to him. He said one formerly worked for him and the other had been a customer for several years.

Chattanooga, Tenn. Times
December 31, 1936

THE LAW UPHELD.

Law enforcement is adequate when officers of the law are determined to uphold the law. That is a truism worth stating only because of the great number of instances in which law enforcement officers are derelict in discharging their plain duty to the public. A lynching was frustrated in Rome, Georgia, Tuesday night by Sheriff M. E. Horton, of Floyd County, and Jailer Charlie Gillam, who took precautionary measures which, in the circumstances, would probably not have occurred to officials less alert to the public interest than they.

In the Floyd County jail are, or were, two Negroes charged with an attempt on the life of a citizen of Dalton, Georgia. The crime with which they are charged is a heinous one; a merchant was bound and locked within his store and the building set fire. He was able to crawl to the front of the burning building and escape the flames. Two Negroes were arrested and the merchant identified them as his assailants. The Negroes were soon transferred to the jail at Rome. A cavalcade of automobiles occupied by armed men formed in Dalton Tuesday night and set out for Rome. Sheriff Horton was informed by telephone of what was apparently "in the wind." He acted promptly.

Occupants of the vanguard of Dalton automobiles were met in the jail yard at Rome by a number of armed men. Sheriff Horton and his deputies were prepared to resist any show of force. Their duty is to uphold the law, and they were prepared to do their duty. What might have been a mob intent upon committing murder became, instead, a large number of men who realized suddenly that their own blood was a price too high to pay for the vengeance they sought. They presumably returned to Dalton. There was no violence.

To assert that lynching and other forms of mob violence cannot be stamped out by the same sort of prompt, intelligent, courageous action is to misinterpret the spirit of a mob. Men in the mass who have armed themselves with murderous intent are a cowardly lot whose taste for violence is limited strictly to the violence of which they themselves are authors. A threat to put them on the receiving end will usually result in the sort of exhibition of which the Georgia officers at Rome can well be proud.

Lynchings-1936
Prevented

Georgia

5426

LYNCHING IS AVERTED IN ATHENS

Appeal To Leading White Citizens Turns Trick

QUICK ACTION

ATHENS, Ga. (By T. E. Davis for ANP)—A plan to lynch John Henry Thomas, 22 year old alleged Negro desperado, by a secretly gathering Georgia mob was averted by the prompt and effective action of a local organization of Negro Citizens. Thomas was accused of killing, with a pistol, Charles H Rice, Jr., white filling station manager, in an attempted holdup at his filling station. He was captured near Winder, Georgia after attempting to escape in a stolen car, and brought back to Athens but was immediately rushed to Atlanta because of the tense feeling here. As the scheduled date for his trial, July 13 drew near rumors spread around the city that a mob was preparing to take Thomas from the officers upon their arrival here and lynch him. The local Negro organization immediately appealed to circuit superior court judge Blanton Fortson, leading candidate for the state governorship, solicitor general Henry West, who was prosecuting the case for state, and nine other leading white citizens of the city for the protection of Thomas during his trial. On the basis of this appeal, Judge Fortson, who did not preside over the trial because of his participation in the governorship campaign, assured the organization that, "the defendant will not only have a fair and impartial trial but also will be protected from bodily harm by persons outside the realm of the law even to the extent of calling out the state militia."

At the request of the Negro organization, Judge Fortson appealed to Governor Talmadge who ordered two companies, 150 strong of the Georgia National Guard to escort Thomas to Athens and to guard him during the trial. Thomas, for whom the state appointed 5 of the city's leading lawyers including a state senator, was found guilty without a recommendation for mercy and sentenced to death by electrocution on August 6. After the trial the guardsmen secretly rushed Thomas out of the courthouse and sped away with him to Atlanta. On the morning of the trial groups of whites attempted to gather near the scene of the trial but were quickly dispersed by the local police. A large crowd was on hand during the trial but the presence of the guardsmen prevented any display of feeling against the condemned Negro.

It is the opinion of most of the Negroes here that Thomas, who has a prison record and was a local 'bad man' had as fair a trial as is possible in the south, and the action of the local organization indicates what is possible for Negroes everywhere when they have the courage and initiative to ask for what they have every reason to believe is theirs by legal right.

Georgian Hides Negro From Mob

LYONS, Ga.—(C)—Sheriff Burch disguised a colored farm hand accused of attacking a girl and rushed him away to an unknown jail Tuesday when mob violence was threatened. The girl claims she was attacked Sunday night. Where she had been from Sunday to Tuesday was not stated.

Reidsville, Ga., Tatnall Journal
July 23, 1936

Toombs Sheriff Averts Lynching

Negro Assailant of White Woman Is Arrested Near Lyons; Throws Victim In An Abandoned Well

MT. VERNON, Ga., July 20.—Deputy Sheriff Willard Burch said tonight authorities arrested a 35- year-old negro farm laborer booked as Robert Davis, accused of attacking a 17-year-old white girl and dropping her into an unused well today.

The negro was arrested in a swamp near Lyons at nightfall, Burch said. He was unarmed and made no resistance.

Burch said the negro denied any connection with the attack, which occurred last night.

After placing the prisoner in the Lyons jail, officers spirited him to another, unannounced prison, Burch said, when a crowd began to form in Lyons streets.

"There was no actual violence," said the deputy, "just talk starting, so we moved him."

The attack victim, who told officers she recognized her attacker, will view the accused man when her condition permits, Burch said.

Authorities said after being attacked and thrown in the well, the girl was pelted with bricks, but managed to climb out and reported the crime at a neighbor's house.

The well was shallow, officers said.

"The man arrested is the same one the girl said was the attacker," Deputy Sheriff Burch said.

The negro was surrounded in a swamp about four miles south of Lyons and arrested. There were about 200 men in the posse which had been scouring the section all day. The man was taken in charge by ~~Sheriff~~ Culpepper of Toombs county, and Sheriff of Montgomery county and their deputies and delivered to the jail at Lyons.

News that the negro had been caught spread quickly and in a short time a large crowd formed in the streets in Lyons. Sheriff Culpepper, determined if possible to prevent a lynching, stood in front of the jail talking with the crowd for some time. The crowd was inclined to be patient and orderly and the sheriff took advantage of the lack of mob spirit by having his wife and two deputies busy in the back of the building. They disguished the negro in a suit of old clothes and slipped him out through the smoke-house, into an automobile and sped away to an undisclosed destination, which was said later in the evening to be either Savannah or Augusta.

Shortly after 8 o'clock some of the crowd, which had increased to a dangerous size, demanded that Sheriff Culpepper surrender the prisoner. The officer assured them the negro had been gone more than two hours and invited a committee from the crowd to inspect the jail. This was done, and thus what might have been a lynching was averted. The deputies who spirited the negro away were said to have been C. H. Williams and D. Q. Coleman.

Lyons, Ga., Progress
July 30, 1936

NO LYNCH LAW NEEDED IN TOOMBS COUNTY

(BY OBSERVER)

While Northern papers frequently rave over the lack of protection afforded negroes charged with serious criminal offenses in the South and especially in Georgia, it would be well for them to know officially of the protection afforded prisoners from mob violence in Toombs county.

If ever there was a case or circumstances justifying the people in taking the law in their hands, it was during the past week when a negro committed one of the most heinous crimes in the history of Georgia in the adjoining county, but efficient officers soon had him under arrest and lodged in the county jail.

The handling of this prisoner and the protection afforded him from mob violence is a perfect specimen of law enforcement, backed up by officers with nerve and ability and who believe in permitting the courts to deal with such cases.

Our own sheriff demonstrated the refined essence of thought in dealing with the mob; he produced at the proper time a masterpiece of strategy never surpassed in perfection and in spite of the contrivances of the mob he was able to save our fair county the shame of another lynching.

Sure justice will soon bring to trial this criminal and avenge the wrong that has been done. The courts will with precision deal out such justice as the defendant deserves. While some men are slaves to passion, the sheriff of Toombs county is a slave to duty and has demonstrated at the clos eof his term of office that justice can be meted out to any one, be he ever so humble or ignorant.

It is a tribute to ability, nerve and wise handling of a delicate situation that anyone less than a real man would have failed on.

FLOYD JAILER READY TO DEFEND PRISONERS

ROME, Ga., Dec. 30.—(Wednesday)—(AP)—Turnkey George E. Gilliam, of the county jail, said early today he had received a report a crowd of men was [illegible] here in search of [illegible] negroes held on a charge of breaking into a store at Dalton and setting fire to the place after binding the storekeeper.

The turnkey did not disclose the source of the report.

"I'm prepared [illegible] as preparations can be made and I think we'll be able to handle any situation," he added.

The negroes are charged with arson, assault with intent to murder and burglary.

The storekeeper at Dalton, Walter Schneider, said he was tied up and his clothing soaked in kerosene in the burning store after he refused to give up his week-end receipts. Schneider managed to save himself by rolling out of the store.

The negroes were brought here from Dalton for safekeeping.

Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.
12-30

NEGROES REMOVED FROM ROME JAIL

Constitution

Sheriff Foils Crowd in Dalton Case By Taking Men From Prison.

12-[illegible]-36

ROME, Ga., Dec. 30.—(AP)—A tip-off a mob was forming to seize two negroes held in jail here in connection with an attempt to make a human torch of a Dalton storekeeper, enabled Sheriff M. E. Horton to remove the men before the vanguard of the crowd reached here early today.

Atlanta Ga

Horton, after conferring with superior court Judge Claude Pittman, at Cartersville, sent the two prisoners from jail only 20 minutes before the first members of the mob arrived.

Leaving about 1 a. m., deputies took the men to an undisclosed prison. By 2 o'clock, attaches of the jail said, six cars containing between 25 and 30 men cruised about the jail but the occupants made no attempt to enter the jail when spectators informed them the men had been removed.

The pair, booked as Frank Simpson, 46, and Zola Dillard, 32, was arrested in Dalton yesterday in connection with an attempt to burn Walter Schneider, Dalton merchant.

Horton said he had been informed Schneider identified the men as the ones who bound him, pouring kerosene over him and set fire to his store after he refused to turn his receipts over to them. Schneider escaped by rolling out a door.

Charges against the men were arson, burglary and attempted murder.

Simpson and Dillard were brought to Fulton county yesterday from Rome for "safe-keeping," and are now lodged in the tower, Fulton county officers stated last night.

'TORCH DEATH' PLAN LAID TO 2 NEGROES

Constitution

Walter Schneider, of Dalton, Rescued From Blazing Store by Neighbor.

12-28-36

DALTON, Ga., Dec. 27.—(UP)—Two negroes, who assertedly attempted to burn a crippled white storekeeper to death when their attempt to rob him failed, were rushed to Rome, Ga., for safe keeping tonight.

Atlanta Ga

Walter Schneider, crippled white grocer, had identified the negroes—Frank Simpson and Zora Dillard—as the men who drenched him with kerosene and fired his store after their attempt to rob him had failed.

Sheriff J. P. Bryant ordered the negroes spirited out of town after groups of white men began to gather on the street here.

Schneider was seriously burned as his grocery store was destroyed in the fire started by the two bandits. With other injuries sustained when assailants slugged and kicked him, he was in a serious condition.

Bound hand and foot and left to die in the interior of his kerosene-drenched store, the grocer escaped by rolling through the flames and out the door before the blaze had spread extensively. Once outside the building, he was rescued by Loren Ross, a neighbor, who had been attracted by the flames.

Schneider told police that the two negroes entered his store with a drawn pistol and demanded he reveal where he had concealed the week-end's receipts. When he refused, they knocked him down and kicked him, he said.

One negro finally thrust a handkerchief so far down his throat that a physician later was forced to use instruments to remove it.

Schneider claimed to have identified the two negroes with certainty. One he claimed was a former employe in the store and the other a negro he had known for several years.

MOB FORMS IN DALTON

Word

12-28-36

DALTON, Ga.—(SNS)—A mob was reported organizing here Sunday.

Object of the sudden organization of whites of this little north Georgia town was believed hinged around the mysterious burning of a crippled white man in his grocery store.

Atlanta Ga

Frank Simpson and Zora Dilllard, named by Walter Schneider as the two colored men who drenched him with kerosene and set his store on fire after they failed in a robbery attempt, were rushed to Rome, Ga., for safekeeping by Sheriff J. P. Bryant, it was understood.

The sheriff ordered the suspects spirited out of the town when he was informed that men were gathering in groups about the streets and discussing and planning a lynching.

The crippled storekeeper who escaped from the burning building after he was allegedly tied hand and foot and soaked in kerosene, declared the colored men attempted to burn him with his store when he refused to tell where he had hidden the week's receipts.

The store was destroyed by the fire, it was reported.

Lynchings-1936
&
Prevented

Kentucky

5431

Savannah, Ga., Press
February 26, 1936

LYNCHING THREATENED

MAYFIELD, Ky., ~~Feb.~~ 26 (UP).—Two youths were secreted in a Kentucky jail today to thwart a mob that threatened to lynch them in retaliation for the brutal slaying of Tom Enterkin, 76, a railroad worker.

The suspects, Jim Wade, 23, and Vastine Thomasson, 20, were removed secretly from the Mayfield jail last night when a mob started to gather.

PADUCAH, KY.
SUN-DEMOCRAT

APR 10 1936

The Manly Art Of Lynching

McCracken county peace authorities, fearing mob violence, Wednesday night removed a Negro prisoner from the local lock-up to another jail in an unnamed city.

That move may not have been justified, but it was made in recognition of a painful fact. White men, the majority of whose ancestors have lived under organized law for centuries, have not yet learned to respect that law.

In the case of lynching, however, men can be made to respect the law. A determined sheriff probably would not have needed to send his prisoner in secret to another jail. If officials let the public know, in discussing such cases, that they will brook no violence, and will defend their prisoners to the extent of using lethal weapons as required by law, mob violence will never develop.

The mob tendency has too often been encouraged by sensation seekers and thoughtless officials. The most tragic development in this connection, especially for the South, was the recent discarding of the Anti-Lynching Act by the U. S. Senate.

Until some such bill is enacted, severely penalizing counties in which lynchings occur, lynchings can only be prevented by firm, independent action on the part of officials responsible. It is regretable that McCracken authorities have shown weakness in dealing with this problem.

OWENSBORO, KY.
MESSENGER

JUN 11 1936

Now that the negro who has admitted the murder and criminal assault of an aged Owensboro woman in her home last Saturday has been arrested and whisked away to the Jefferson county jail for safekeeping, a special grand jury should be called immediately to investigate the crime and return indictments. The citizens of Daviess county will not be satisfied unless their officials demonstrate the same celerity in bringing about a trial of the negro that was exercised yesterday in his removal from Owensboro shortly after his arrest.

KENTUCKY NEGRO HELD FOR ATTACK

Telegraph

Prisoner Taken to Louisville for Safe Keeping After Threats Are Made

12-26-36

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Dec. 25 (AP).—Charged with criminally assaulting a white woman at Owensboro, Ky., late last night Hoyle Roberts, 30-year-old Negro, was brought to the Jefferson county jail today for safekeeping.

The Negro, who denied the charge, was taken from the Owensboro jail early this morning and brought to Louisville on orders of Chief of Police R. P. Thornberry after a "right smart" demonstration followed his arrest.

Roberts is charged with criminally attacking Mrs. Frank Dowell, 36, wife of a railroad employe. Thornberry said she named Roberts as her attacker.

Commonwealth Attorney Herman Burkhead said part of the woman's clothing was found in Roberts' coat pocket when he was arrested.

The Negro, a delivery boy for a drug store, was said by Thornberry to have admitted being at the Dowell home but denied attacking the woman.

According to Thornberry Roberts was captured after a chase of several blocks by the woman's husband and two city patrolmen.

Lynchings - 1936
Prevented. 6

Louisiana.

52/32

Danville, Va., Bee
January 11, 1936

Mob Trouble Threatened In Slaying

Two Negro Men and Wives Jailed, Posses Hunt Another After Louisiana Killing

BETHANY, La., Jan. 11.—(AP)—A Texas jail protected two negro men and two negro women from mob violence today while posses hunted a fifth man involved in the slaying of Gordon Harris near here yesterday.

Harris went to evict the negroes from tenancy on his farm because of non-payment of obligations.

The ensuing argument was climaxed by a fight in which he was slain after wounding two of the negroes.

Jack Harris, badly wounded by a shot through the head, John Pipkin and his wife and the wife of John Pipkin, Jr., were the negroes arrested.

The fugitive was John Pipkin, Jr., also believed to have been wounded by Harris's bullets.

Police were unable to say which of the negroes struck Harris from behind with an axe and later shot him with a rifle.

The prisoners were removed to nearby Carthage, Texas, for safekeeping. Feeling against the negroes was reported running high early today. The case was believed almost unique in that negro women were sharing in the animosity of the crowds.

Lynchings-1936
Prevented

Mississippi.

5427

Brookhaven, Miss. Leader
May 16, 1936

Copiah Negro Taken to Jackson For Safe-Keeping.

Jackson, Miss., May 11. — Copiah county officers late today rushed a young negro to the mob-proof Hinds county jail here for safekeeping after an attempted house-breaking and an alleged attempted attack upon a 12-year-old white girl in Copiah county this afternoon.

The negro, Julius Lee, 19, was under the observation of a jail physician, suffering from gunshot wounds said to have been inflicted when the father of the girl effected the negro's capture.

Sheriff Hester of Copiah county did not disclose the name of the young white girl or the community in which the incident occurred.

From reports reaching here, it was ascertained that a negro was seen attempting to break into a window, leading to the bedroom of the little girl when he was discovered by the girl's father.

NEGROES WILL HANG FOR TWO SLAYINGS

Feeling Is High As Planters' Killers Are Tried

Post

9-30

GRENADA, Miss., Sept. 30.—Andrew Hemphill, 50, and Tommy Jones 45, confessed Negro slayers of two white planters, were convicted and sentenced to hang here last night and then rushed back to Jackson for safekeeping.

A jury which listened to the case all day deliberated only 10 minutes. The Negroes were convicted of the slaying of William Simpson Jr., 25, and W. W. Ingram, 20, white planters near Avalon last month.

Two lynching threats were made against the pair—first when they were arrested shortly after the shooting and again when they were brought back for trial Monday. Heavily armed guards stood at all entrances to the courtroom during the trial.

Mississippi Negroes Rescued From Mob

Advertiser

9-29-36

Montgomery, Ala.

GRENADA, MISS., Sept. 28.—(AP)—Sheriff Dave Dogan protected two negro prisoners from possible violence today by eluding an angry crowd.

The demonstration occurred late in the afternoon when the negroes, Tommy Jones, 45, and Andrew Hemphill, 50, were being led from the courthouse to the jail.

Sheriff Dogan, accompanied by two assistants, pushed the negroes into a waiting car and sped out of town.

Ed Brunson, Grenada County jailer, said after the sheriff left a crowd of about 50 persons came from the courthouse to the jail and asked for the two negroes.

"I told them they weren't here," Brunson said.

"Then to prove it, I took two squads of citizens through the whole jail. When they left they seemed satisfied."

Brunson said a county grand jury indicted the negroes earlier today for first degree murder in connection with the slaying of two young farm overseers, William M. Simpson, Jr., 25, and W. W. Ingram, 20, on the night of Aug. 12.

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2 NEGRO PRISONERS SPED FROM GRENADA

Commercial Appeal

Angry Crowd Seeks Pair Held for Slayings

9-29-36

Memphis, Tenn.

GRENADA, Sept. 28.—Sheriff Dave Dogan protected two negro prisoners from possible violence today by eluding an angry crowd.

The demonstration occurred late in the afternoon when the negroes, Tommy Jones, 45, and Andrew Hemphill, 50, were being led from the courthouse to the jail.

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"Then to prove it, I took two squads of citizens through the whole jail. When they left they seemed satisfied."

Brunson said a county grand jury indicted the negroes earlier today for first-degree murder in connection with the slaying of two young farm overseers, William M. Simpson, Jr., 25, and W. W. Ingram, 20, on the night of Aug. 12.

"They were supposed to have been tried this afternoon," Brunson related, "but the trial was postponed until tomorrow morning."

Brunson said he had no idea where Sheriff Dogan had taken the negroes for safe keeping. Since the time of their arrest they have been kept in jail at Jackson, 125 miles away.

The jailor said he knew of no preparations being made for an extra guard in the morning, adding that "anything of that sort is entirely in the sheriff's hands."

This section was deeply stirred by the slaying of Ingram and Simpson, the latter a former football player at Duke University. Both had been in this region but a short time, Simpson coming from Turrell, Ark., and Ingram from Earle, Ark.

Lynchings-1936
Prevented

Missouri.

5433

New York American

FEB 8 1936

Missouri Lynch Mob Is Dispersed

MACON, Mo., Feb. 7 (AP).—Sheriff Williams said today a mob had surrounded the local jail last night and demanded Ernest Finney, Negro, accused of killing Special Officer Claude Whiles.

The crowd dispersed after Williams called his deputies and prepared to defend the prisoner.

New York Herald-Tribune

FEB 8 1936

Sheriff Averts Lynching

Disperses Missouri Mob Seeking Alleged Negro Slayer

MACON, Mo., Feb. 7 (AP).—Sherif B. R. Williams said today an undetermined number of men had surrounded the jail here last night and demanded Ernest Finney, Negro, held for the alleged murder of Special Officer Claude Whiles.

The apparently leaderless crowd dispersed after Williams called his deputies and prepared to defend the prisoner. Whiles was killed at Finney's night club when he intervened in a fight.

Lynchings - 1936
Prevented

New York.

5434

COPS PREVENT LYNCHING HERE

Amsterdam News

Rescue Victim From East Side Mob at Henry Street

1-18-36

Only quick action by the East Side police Tuesday night prevented New York City from inaugurating the country's 1936 lynching roster.

The victim of mob violence on the city's East Side was John Williams, 50-year-old jobless laborer who resides at the Municipal Lodging House at South Ferry.

Beaten, scratched and stomped by male and female members of a white mob which chased and caught him near Jefferson and Henry streets Tuesday night, Williams was rescued from probable death by the police and arrested on a charge of attempted kidnapping.

The charges grew out of the statements of several members of the mob that the jobless man had attempted to kidnap Irwin Gooen, 7-year-old white boy, at the crowded corner of Jefferson and Henry. Williams vehemently denied the charges.

According to his accusers, the homeless man is alleged to have approached the boy on the crowded street and grabbed him, saying "Come with me and I'll show you something." Williams is then supposed to have picked up the boy and attempted to flee with him through the crowds.

Someone yelled "Kidnapper!" and a mob quickly took up pursuit. A half block from the corner two women overtook Williams and began clawing his face. A pushcart peddler knocked the man down and the whole mob closed in on him, with cries of "Lynch him," "Kill the ——."

Patrolman Carl Hyland fought his way into the clawing, kicking mob and dragged the suspect to this feet. The officer then fought off the would-be lynchers until more aid arrived.

Rushed to the police station, Williams venemently denied speaking to or seizing the boy. He declared that he did not know of the alleged incident until he had been attacked by the mob.

Police officers stated that the neighborhood had been "worked up" over the recent disappearance of 10-months-old Jackie Horowitz and advanced this as a reason for the attempted "lynching."

Williams was held on the attempted kidnapping charge pending further investigation.

GREENSBORO, N. C.
RECORD

MAY 13 1936

It Happened "On the Sidewalks of New York."

A burly negro, Kenneth Seaborn, boot-black, aged 32, while hurrying along the street bumped into a crippled taxicab driver, Max Wolf, white, also 32, and knocked him sprawling. Then, adding insult to injury, the boot-black yelled: "You po' white trash, can't you git out o' the way?"

Wolf, who wears a brace on his lame leg, resented this. He and the darkey started a hot verbal exchange. The darkey pulled a bottle of shoe polish from his "shine box" and whanged Wolf over the head. The latter collapsed. A crowd quickly gathered and began chasing the boot-black. When the quarry leaped aboard a passing street car the pursuers — grown from angry crowd to mad mob — followed. Meanwhile the police, in great number, came charging upon the scene with drawn revolvers. After a lively tussle with some of the more determined would-be mobsters they succeeded in saving the negro from what, apparently, would have been a lynching. ...

This happened, not in Richmond, Va., Raleigh, N. C., Columbia, S. C., Atlanta, Ga., Montgomery, Ala., Jackson, Miss., Baton Rouge, La., Tallahassee, Fla., in fact it did not occur south of the Potomac. It happened—believe it or not "on the sidewalks of New York," on 181st street.

We hasten to congratulate the New York police for their excellent work in preventing a lynching, in a city and in a state where lynchings are supposed never, never to occur. New Yorkers do not go in much for neck-tie parties; these lawless and barbarous affairs being reserved, apparently, for white southerners of the white-livered and feather-legged variety. Blood-thirsty New Yorkers usually have other although equally effective ways of blotting out the victims of their common wrath. Generally they are a bit more "finiky" and cautious in such matters than are the south's crude lynchers.

Sheepshead Bay Mob Attempts to Lynch Young Negro

Daily Worker
4-29-36

A howling mob of hundreds of lynch-mad persons almost succeeded in hanging Howard White, a 28-year-old Negro in the Sheepshead Bay section of Brooklyn yesterday.

White was threatened because of alleged statements made by two little white girls.

Police had to battle the mob for almost an hour before placing the victim safely behind cell bars. At one point of the hysterical outbreak several husky ringleaders of the bloodthirsty crowd actually placed a rope around the neck of the Negro. Additional police summoned arrested the young Negro.

After White was taken into the police station the mob milled around for another half hour, baaing, hissing and shouting their intentions of lynching the Negro.

Lynchings - 1936

Prevented

North Carolina

5435

CHARLOTTE, N. C.
NEWS

JUL 23 1936

Very Fortunate.

It is peculiarly fortunate that what might have been a lynching of a Negro in Charleston, South Carolina, amounted to no more than a run-in between a few members of a mob and the police. In fact, the mob was hardly a mob, but only a crowd composed in large part of curious individuals and some drunken would-be ringleaders who sought to stir up excitement. The police clubbed that attempt in the budding.

But it is peculiarly fortunate, we say, that Charleston didn't have a lynching. If that had happened, surely the two candidates for the U. S. Senate who reside in Charleston and the once elegant Charleston News & Courier, all of whom and of which have let political obsessions take the form of racial hatreds, would have perceived too late that tolerance and good will toward man are basic to every tenable philosophy be it personal or political.

Lynchings - 1936
Prevented

Oklahoma

5436

19-YEAR-OLD GIRL SAVED FROM A MOB

Call

Oklahoma Officers Thwart Attempt to Seize Young Prisoner

5-29-36

ALTUS, Okla.—(ANS)—A would-be lynch mob of 200 stormed the Jackson county jail here Tuesday night, May 26, in an effort to seize 19-year-old Olivia Gardner, who is accused of slaying S. E Harlan, a white WPA truck driver but all violence was frustrated by city and county officials.

No formal charges had been filed against the girl when the mob surrounded the jail but it was rumored that she had confessed the slaying.

Kansas City Mo.

The widow of Harlan was in the group which milled around the jail.

Authorities had planned to move Miss Gardner to Granite for safekeeping but before their plans materialized, the mob began to gather. In an effort to thwart violence, E. C. Rollins, deputy sheriff, and J. G. Cornell, a city officer, decided to take the girl to Granite despite the mob.

Placing Miss Gardner between them, the officers rushed her to a motor car guarded by other officers and took her away. The crowd broke up when the car left.

The girl fell exhausted in the back seat of the car as she sped away from the mob.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
HERALD-TRIBUNE

MAY 28 1936

Mob Menaces Negro Girl After Killing of White Man

Murder Defendant Moved to Another Oklahoma Town

ALTUS, Okla., May 27 (AP).—Olivia Garvin, nineteen-year-old Negro girl who killed a white man yesterday and twice had to be protected from seizure by an angry mob of 200, was charged with murder today by County Attorney Weldon Ferris.

The prosecutor pressed investigation of reports that she might have been involved in a series of recent holdups, after charging that she slew S. E. Harlan, thirty-two years old, a gravel truck driver for the Works Progress Administration. The girl said she fired in self-defense during a quarrel, according to police.

After a large crowd, headed by Harlan's widow, twice moved on the Altus jail, the girl was rushed to Hobart, Okla., where police reported she hinted she might attempt suicide. Extra precautions were taken.

Mr. Ferris said he expected no further trouble in Altus, but would delay the girl's arraignment here "for several days."

N. Y. EVENING POST

MAY 27 1936

NEGRO GIRL SAVED FROM OKLA. MOB

Prisoner, 19, Protected by Officers After She Kills White Man

ALTUS, Okla., May 27 (AP).—A nineteen-year-old Negro girl, arrested after the fatal shooting of a white man, was held in a neighboring town today after officers twice repulsed a crowd of 200 that had advanced on the local jail with the victim's widow in the lead.

No charges have been filed against Olivia Gardner, but Deputy Sheriff E. O. Rollins said she confessed shooting S. E. Harlan, twenty-two-year-old WPA truck driver, in self-defense after a fight.

Widow Turned Away

A. W. Edwards, Altus policeman, said five officers were posted outside the jail and two others inside when the crowd started gathering near the court house yesterday afternoon.

'Mrs. Harlan tried to gain entrance first," said Edwards in describing the scene.

"She was very nervous. But she didn't get past the platform at the entrance. She was talked to and helped down and no one entered the door. The deputy sheriffs and police kept the crowd on the platform."

Mob Dissuaded

Edwards said the officers had one sawed-off shotgut in sight but did not point it at the crowd. All the officers were armed, however, prepared to resist any mob action.

The crowd retreated for a short distance and a few minutes later made a second move toward the jail.

"One man spoke up like he would attempt to storm the jail," said Edwards. "A very level-headed citizen spoke coolly to him, explaining why it would be the wrong thing to do. Then the crowd gave way again."

Shooting Monday

Deputy Rollins and J. G. Cornell, policeman, hastened inside the jail, placed the girl between them and started for a waiting motor car.

"The crowd started swarming around her again but didn't try to take her from the deputies," said Edwards.

As the crowd closed in the officers shouted at the citizens to stay back. Once in the car the Negro girl dropped prostrate in the back seat. Rollins drove away at high speed and the crowd disperse.

Sheriff Henry A. Savage said the girl was taken to the jail at Hobart, Okla.

Shot late Monday night, Harlan died in a hospital early yesterday.

ALTUS GIRL SHOT WHEN WHITE MAN VIOLATED "ALLEY" CODE; FIGHT IN WAITING ROOM FATAL

MADE DATE WITH HARLAN BUT HE SOUGHT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE IN DARK SHADOWS OF M. K. & T. STATION

Mother Tells of Happenings On Monday

ALTUS, Okla., June 4.—Violation of the moral and the immoral code caused the violent death here Monday night of S. E. Harlan, white PWA worker, who Olivia Garvin, 19-year-old Negro girl, mortally wounded in the separate coach waiting room of the M. K. & T. railroad station.

Depot Rendezvous

The Garvin girl admits she made a date with Harlan, and that he followed her to the usual rendezvous as a safe meeting place for white men and Negro women in Altus. The Katy depot waiting room for Negroes is without lights at nights, except when the train runs and for many years people who know that section of the city understand that it is a hangout for immoral purposes.

Passed Four Drug Stores

The dead man and his family lived in the northern part of the city, and if he left home, as reported by his wife, to secure medicine for a sick child, he had to pass four drug stores to get where he later admitted he was. Leaving home he would have had to come down through the heart of town, then turning west two blocks he then, to arrive at the Katy depot, had to go still another half block south.

Violated Alley Law

But S. E. Harlan was a bully. He believed neither in the Ten Commandments or the law of the alley. When he reached the door of the Negro waiting room he thought Monday night that he at last had a defenseless Negro girl in the dark and that, although he had $30 in his pocket, he would spend none of it.

Olivia Garvin is in jail at Hobart, but between 10:30 and 12 o'clock Monday night, before she returned to her parents' home, she quite evidently talked to some of her friends around Altus, because in cafes, barber shops and everywhere it is well known what happened to S. E. Harlan and how it happened.

Fight In Dark

It appears that when aHrlan reached the door of the depot, with Olivia walking in front, leading the way, he suddenly shoved her thru the door and growled threats that he would make her do his bidding and that he did not expect to compensate her for the tryst in the dark.

Sticks To Story

When arrested at 12 o'clock that night by officers at the home of her parents, who reside in quarters at 801 East Commerce, the girl told a straight-forward story regarding her fatal encounter with t white man who wilfully sought to violate the alley code of scarlet women. In jail at Hobart, although having been menaced and threatened by a mob before she was spirited away from Altus, the young girl still stuck steadfast to her story that Harlan sought to force her to do what she did not desire to do.

6-6-36

Although County Attorney Weldon Ferris has indicated he might file hi-jacking charges against Olivia Garvin, there is not a shred of evidence which would warrant such indictment. The wife of the dead man has said that he left home with $30 and he returned home feet foremost with $30. If Olivia Garvin had shot Harlan for his money, or rather for the purpose of robbing him, she could have certainly have accomplished her purpose for she had him in her power fully a half block away from any living person. He was mortally wounded and could not protect himself.

"She Shot Me."

First news that Harlan was shot came when he stumbled into the Railway Cafe, one block north of the Katl railroad station. He appeared in great pain and was holding his stomach. ePrsons in the cafe asked him what was the trouble and when they took him in the rear and laid him on a bed he gasped, "She shot me and they ran."

This statement indicates that there was someone else along or near about when Olivia shot, and the fact that police immediately after the shooting began hurried trips to the Garvin home proves also that somebody "peeched" a few minutes after the fatal encounter in the depot.

Mother Talks

According to Mrs. Caro Garvin, mother of the girl, who resides at 801 East Commerce, in the rear of a white family's home, she knew nothing about the movements of Olivia that night.

"Olivia and I worked hard Tuesday washing clothes and she left about 8 p. m. I thought nothing of this and had no idea of what was hapuening until around 11 p. m. police officers arrived and asked for Olivia. I asked them what had happened and they intimated that they just wanted to question her regarding a little matter.

Officers Arrive

Shortly after they left Sheriff Savage and two deputies came asking for Olivia and they also stated that they wanted to question herabout a matter, but did not state the gravity of the offense charged against my girl.

"When they left I watched out the window and say that they had secreted themselves in the alley and I heard one of them say, 'We will wait till she comes.'

Along around 12 o'clock Olivia come in and I immediately asked her if she had gotten into any trouble, and she said 'No.' I asked her where she had been and she said she had been down to Hazel Wright's. I heard the officers coming up the steps about this time and I did not get to say anything more to her."

The Garvin home was searched and Lonnis Ellie, 34, a friend of the family, who was visiting at the time, was also taken into custody. Ellis had $10 in his pockets.

According to Mrs. Garvin, Olivia had always been of a highly nervous type, and at times had what Mrs. Garvin characterized as "spells."

Arrest Sweetheart

Exter hWite, a boy who goes with Olivia, has also been arrested. He works out in service and his parents reside at Boley. Claud McFadden, a youth of 18 years, has also been taken into custody.

Preliminary hearing will be held in a few days according to the county attorney's office. The Garvin girl does not hove a previous police record and was a student in the city schools last year.

Eludes the Mob

OLIVIA GARVIN

Officials at Hobart spirited Olivia Garvin, 19-year-old Altus girl away from the Kiowa county jai to an undesignated place, Monday when they became apprehensive as to the safety of the young woman.

Jackson county officials at Altus rushed the young woman to Hobart last week following the fata shooting of S. E. Harlan, white man, who Miss Garvin alleges sought to attack her in the M.K.& T.depot at Altus,last Monday.

MANGUM, OKLA.
STAR

MAY 27 1936

NEGRESS IS SAVED FROM ANGRY MOB. WHITE MAN SLAIN

Large Crowd Gathers At Altus Jail Tuesday Afternoon

OTHER NEGROES HELD

Three Men Arrested As Suspects In Slaying of WPA Worker

Olivia Garvin, 19-year-old Negress, was saved from an angry mob of Jackson county citizens who stormed the county jail at Altus, Tuesday afternoon, when a group of Jackson county officers and Altus policemen rushed her through a crowd of 200 to 300 persons bent upon lynching her.

The Negress was arrested early Tuesday morning in connection with the fatal shooting of S. E. Harlan, 34-year-old Altus WPA worker, in the M-K-T depot at Altus.

Strong feelings against the Negress began developing soon after Harlan was shot and a large crowd congregated at the hospital, where he died about 1 a. m., about three and a half hours after he was shot. About 3:30 Tuesday afternoon the mob formed and converged upon the county jail, demanding the Negress.

Wishing to avoid trouble, Sheriff H. A. Savage decided to make an attempt to get the Negress away from the jail and take her to another county for safekeeping.

Taken From Jail

Deputy Sheriff E. O. Rollins and Policeman J. G. Cornels took the woman from the jail while other officers, with guns in their hands formed a cordon about them. The Negress was placed in Mr. Rollins car, where she collapsed in the seat from fright. Mr. Rollins drove away with her while the other officers kept the mob away from his car.

The Negress was taken to an unannounced jail in Western Oklahoma. Later it was revealed that she was taken to Kiowa county jail at Hobart.

Three Negro men, Ester White, Claude (Peck) McEacen, and Lonnie Ellis, are being held as suspects of participation in the slaying of Harlan and as material witnesses in the case.

Harlan staggered into a rooming house near the Katy depot at 9:30 Monday night with a bullet wound in his abdomen. He was rushed to a hospital, where he told attendants and Assistant County Attorney Roy Steele that a Negress shot him.

It was almost an hour before officers were able to learn the identity of the guilty Negress, then a search was started for Olivia Gardner. She was arrested about midnight by Sheriff H. A. Savage and Sam W. Rector, of Mangum, who concealed themselves in a plum thicket near the servants quarters in which she lived and waited until she arrived there. They also arrested Lonnie Ellis, who went to the servants quarters to get clothes and money belonging to Ester White, "husband" of the Gardner girl, suspected of being an accomplice in the shooting.

Other Negroes Arrested

The Negro "Peck" was arrested when it was learned that he was near the scene of the shooting and was a material witness if not an accomplice in the crime. Ester White was not found until 8:30 Tuesday morning.

In a dying statement to Assistant County Attorney Steele, Harlan said he stopped at a drug store on South Main street to get medicine for his sick child and when he started to get in his truck to go home somebody called to him from the east end of the Katy depot. He said he walked across the street to the depot and an attempt was made to rob him. When he resisted, he was shot by a Negro woman, he said.

Officers secured evidence that Ester White and Olivia Garvin robbed a White man of $56 Saturday night and that about two weeks before they robbed another White man of $10 and a pistol.

County Attorney Weldon Ferris indicated that he would ask the extreme penalty for the Negress and any accomplices in the slaying of Harlan.

Harlan is survived by his wife and two children, a boy and a girl. He had lived in Altus about three years and was employed as truck driver on a WPA project in Altus. He was popular with fellow workmen, who are said to have constituted a large part of the mob which attempted to storm the jail yesterday afternoon.

Mrs. Harlan was reported to have been a leader of the mob.

County Attorney Ferris said the Negress would be arraigned within the next few days and that an early trial would be sought.

The Negress admitted shooting Harlan but was obstinate during questioning, declaring "I shot him and that's all I'm going to tell."

HOBART, OKLA.
DEMOCRAT-CHIEF

MAY 28 1936

ANOTHER MOB

For what authorities in this section of the state believe is the first time, a mob at Altus surrounded the Jackson county jail and demanded a negro girl, who admitted shooting to death a white man, be turned over to it. The officers down there pulled a daring and clever bluff to get the girl through the crowd and into a waiting car to be spirited away for safe keeping.

The deputy sheriff, who was riving the car containing the girl, sai he did not know where he was going when he left Altus. He ended up here and turned the girl over to Kiowa county officials for safe keeping, who expected no mob trouble and had had none up until last night.

A strange thing is mob psychology. Scattered into individuals, a mob is impotent and not nearly so vehement in its feelings. But gathered together where they can see, hear and feel each other, members of a mob turn into primitive animals, in which condition they are able to write into the record books some of the most grim tragedies in the criminal history of this country.

The current case is a little different from the ordinary run of such occurances in the so-called deep south. In most cases a negro man has been accused of attacking a white woman. In this case, a negro girl was the intended victim of the mob's vengance.

Merits of the case—whether the girl murdered the man or shot in self defense—have no place in the discussion, which is written against mob violence. As long as persons are paying money for enactment of laws and their enforcement, why they should resort to violence is more than we can understand. Placing the blame is as much of a problem. In some cases where officers have taken an attitude of sympathy toward a mob, they are to blame. A mob always has two or three spokesmen who are main factors in fomenting the trouble. But until we can control ourselves when feeling runs high and refrain from letting mob psychology rule, we haven't much right to call ourselves civilized.

Lynchings - 1936
Prevented

Pennsylvania.

5437

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
NEWS

JAN 3 1936

LYNCHERS PERIL MURDERER OF AGED MATRON

The threat of a lynching hung above Media today as Roy Crittenden, shotgun slayer of a Haverford college matron, paced his cell in the Delaware county jail, without hope of bail.

Following persistent rumors that a "necktie party" was being planned for the 32-year-old Negro a heavily augmented force of armed guards was ordered about the cell block after two anonymous telephone calls to prison officials warned of impending violence.

ROY CRITTENDEN
Guarded closely after threats

The threats were received shortly before Crittenden was spirited away to the Haverford township police station, where he was held without bail in connection with the death of Mrs. Mary Louise Ginder, 70, as she sat dining with relatives and friends two days before Christmas.

Extreme precautions were taken in carrying out the hearing. No public notice was made of the secretly impaneled coroner's jury and when Crittenden stepped from the county jail, he was surrounded by fourteen heavily-armed guards.

At the inquest the slayer said only six words: "I don't want to say anything."

He heard three witnesses testify that he fired the fatal shotgun charge that virtually blew the head from the matron's shoulders while she sat at the holiday board.

Police said at the time that Crittenden had been angered when reprimanded for laxity in his duties about the college, where he was employed.

LYNCHING PREVENTED BY ERIE PATROLMAN

5-17-36

ERIE, Pa., May 16—(AP)—Officers rescued a man today from a crowd threatening to lynch him after an alleged attempt to attack an 8-year-old girl.

Patrolman George Wolfendon said he found the man in the midst of a mob of shouting men and women.

The patrolman added:

"I sent for the patrol as soon as I saw the mob, women were striking him, and two men had ropes. They were going to lynch him."

Police Chief George J. Christoph questioned the man in the city jail. The chief said the man said he was William Brasco, 24.

N. Y. EVENING POST

MAY 28 1936

GUARD NEGRO AND WHITE IN PENNA. LYNCH THREAT

BETHDEHEM, Pa., May 28 (AP).—A Negro anda white youth were in the Northampton County jail today as threats of violence were heard after their arrest on charges of attacking an eleven-year-old white girl.

Alderman Charles Greenstein said the two, booked as James Powell, thirty-eight, Negro, and Nicholas Ackerman, seventeen, will get a hearing later. A scheduled hearing was canceled becaused of fear of violence.

Lynchings - 1936
Prevented

South Carolina

5438

Bradenton, Fla., Herald
July 26, 1936

The South's Record

Charleston, S. C., saw two negroes accused of slaying a police detective saved from the fury of a mob of 500 during the week when they were spirited out of the city and placed in an unannounced jail. The maneuver was executed by the sheriff.

But for the inclination of various loud voiced newspapers to criticize without reason every bit of mob violence the south knows with little attention paid the gang killings in their own backyards the Charleston incident could be permitted to pass unnoticed. The same thing has happened innumerable times.

But because we are soundly censured for all violence of this nature without respect for surrounding conditions these preventions should be given the widest possible publicity. Against this record is that of our critics, frequently an inability to effect arrests for mob violence let alone prevent the machine gunning of men even in the business districts of their cities in broad open daylight.

If the records are studied it will be found that the south has made tremendous progress in curbing mob violence. Much better than similar progress elsewhere. But because a negro is occasionally lynched under the cover of darkness by a handful of impassioned men for an unspeakable crime the whole section is held up to scorn with our civilization questioned.

The result of this has been a continuing effort to pass legislation that would penalize a county or a state for something it cannot always prevent even though diligent effort is made. A lynched unfortunate is no deader than a machine gun bullet-riddled gangster although the distinction is always made. We'll have as few lynchings in the south as possible but we will probably always have them since there is no law that can change human nature. But our record is quite as good as that of the remainder of the country if not better.

ROCK HILL, S. C.
HERALD

JUL 18 1936

STIRRING STRIFE

Greenville Piedmont.

South Carolina has had no lynching this year and no attempt at lynching except in the recent case at Dorchester in which officers of the law very effectively stopped a mob.

The Columbia Record thinks that the Dorchester occurrence may have had some connection with the racial antagonism stirred up by some politicians this summer.

"Race prejudices," it rightly says, "are dangerous things to play politics with."

So they are, and we will welcome the day when South Carolina outgrows needless dragging of the race "issue" into political rows.

White South Carolinians are agreed that politically South Carolina is a white man's state and there is, therefore, no issue to it.

Why needlessly stir up strife?

GREENSBORO, N. C
RECORD

JUL 23 1936

A Lynching Prevented.

Law and order prevailed in Charleston, S. C., this week against King Lynch. Two negro men, held in jail on a charge of murdering a police detective, were hustled out of Charleston for safekeeping in a jail in upper South Carolina when a mob of some 500 persons assembled and threatened to lynch the prisoners.

The Record has frequently contended that lynching could be reduced to an extremely low minimum, if not eliminated entirely, if officers would exert their every effort to prevent mob crimes as, apparently, the Charleston officers did.

The officers who prevented a lynching in Charleston have set a fine example for the guardians of law, order and justice not only in other parts of the Palmetto State but throughout the union.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
July 23, 1936

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Lynchings-1936
Prevented

Tennessee.

5439

NEGRO IS ACCUSED OF HACKING WOMAN

Commercial Appeal

Official Says That Confession Is Made At Nashville

2-20-36

NASHVILLE, Feb. 19.—(AP)—Accused of attacking and seriously injuring Mrs. Denver H. Perry, 28, with an ax at her home near here yesterday, James Taylor, a young negro, was captured today and rushed to the state penitentiary for safekeeping.

Memphis, Tenn.

That precaution was taken because of high feeling. Posses had searched continuously for the negro for 24 hours.

He was caught at the home of his grandmother. After an hour's questioning, District Attorney General J. Carlton Loser said the negro had "signed a confession admitting his guilt." Details of the confession were not announced.

The attack occurred about noon yesterday at the Perry home in the county. Mrs. Perry told her husband, a coin machine company manager, that the negro approached her with an ax, and said he was going to rob and kill her.

After almost severing both Mrs. Perry's wrists with the ax and inflicting severe cuts about the face and head, the negro fled in the Perry car. He took about $25 from the dashboard pocket and abandoned the machine a short distance from his victim's home.

The negro youth had been employed at the Perry home for about a week as house boy. Her condition still serious, Mrs. Perry underwent an operation this afternoon in an effort to save her arms.

Lynchings-1936
Prevented

Texas.

5440

BROOKLYN, N. Y.
TIMES UNION

JUN 18 1936

Mob of 250 in Texas Seeks 10 Men for Mass Lynching

Wharton, Tex., June 18.—Two hundred and fifty armed men toured county jails early today looking for ten colored men whom they wished to lynch. A few jumps ahead of the mob, officers rushed the colored men to what they hoped would be a place of safety.

The jails of Matagorda and Wharton counties had been searched by the mobsters without finding a trace of their quarry, and sheriffs of Ford Bend, Brozoria, Colorado, and other surrounding counties were on the alert. Officers were believed to be taking the prisoners to the Harris County Jail at Houston, which is mob proof.

Mobsters Burn Cafe

The mob paused at El Campo to set fire to a cafe and dance hall where colored persons early yesterday killed Special Officer Ted Simmons, 30, the cause of the mob's wrath. The fire was extinguished quickly and there was little damage.

At midnight, a string of motor cars came to a screeching stop in front of the Matagorda County Jail at Bay City after a fast drive from Wharton, 25 miles to the north. The mob got out, quickly surrounded the jail. The leaders went to the front door.

"We want those niggers," one announced.

The jailor stalled because, four minutes before, Sheriff Harris Milner had dispatched his prisoners, guarded by deputies, in automobiles to a secret destination. He had been warned by Sheriff E. J. Koehl of Wharton County, whose jail at Wharton the mob had searched but two hours before.

The mobsters grew threatening while Sheriff Milner talked to them.

"All right," said Milner. "Appoint a committee and I'll let it search the jail."

The committee went through the jail, questioned all prisoners, reported to the mob, and it drove off, announcing its intention of finding the negroes if it had to visit "every jail in South Texas."

The negroes—six men and four women—were arrested for questioning concerning the slaying of Special Officer Ted Simmons, 30, at Wharton early yesterday.

Simmons had tried to stop a brawl among colored ex-service men celebrating their bonus. He shot and wounded two men before he was stabbed to death.

The suspects were all arrested in Wharton and lodged in the county jail here. At dusk yesterday the mob, recruited from farmers and farm-workers of the countryside, began forming. Sheriff Koehl watched it uneasily and as soon as it was dark sent his prisoners to Bay City. An hour later the mob had surrounded his jail and its members were uncoiling ropes, preparatory for a mass lynching.

Koehl and County Attorney George P. Willis, jr., addressed the mob without calming it. Finally, it was permitted to search the jail to satisfy itself the prisoners were not there. A few minutes later, it was en route to Bay City.

Houston, where it was believed the prisoners were being taken, is 90 miles northeast of Bay City, which is on the Colorado River 30 miles from its mouth at the Gulf of Mexico.

Koehl said there was no conclusive evidence against any of the prisoners, although several admitted they were present at the brawl where Simmons was killed.

Winston-Salem, N. C. Journal
June 19, 1936

Texas Officers Save Nine Negroes From Lynch Mob

El Campo, Texas, June 18 (AP).—Resolute South Texas officers came out victorious tonight in a grim game of hid and seek with a lynch mob which hunted in vain for nine Negroes, held for killing a white deputy sheriff during a "bonus celebration."

The threat of violence faded as alert officers, after hustling their quarry from jail to jail ahead of a crowd of 300 persons during the night, finally placed them safely in a cell they described as being "out of the danger area."

After an all-night search in vain for the Negroes — five men and four women—the crowd dispersed after setting fire to a cafe where the deputy sheriff was stabbed to death as he attempted to quiet a disturbance among the Negroes.

With the officers constantly holding a slight lead, the irate mob searched the jails at Wharton, Bay City and here, only to find each time the quarry had eluded them.

A tenth Negro was arrested today and, like the others, was removed for safe-keeping to an undisclosed jail. Deputy Sheriff A. H. Reitz firmly refused to give any hint as to the whereabouts of the prisoners.

Authorities had filed no charges against any of the Negroes and indicated they would take no action for several days, allowing ample time for tension to abate.

To pacify the mob, sheriffs at Wharton and Bay City allowed a few members of the group to go through the jails and see for themselves that the Negroes were not there. The prisoners had been transferred before the mob reached the towns.

Sheriff E. J. Koehl said the crowd gathered in front of the Wharton jail about 11:30 o'clock last night, demanding that the Negroes be turned over to it. After a search convinced them the Negroes were elsewhere, the mob went to Bay City, reaching there about midnight. Sheriff Harris Milner permitted members to search the jail there and the mob disappeared in the direction of El Campo.

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
TIMES

JUN 25 1936

NEGROES ARE TRANSFERRED TO WHARTON

Suspects in Slaying of El Campo Deputy Had Been Held Here

Eight El Campo negroes, brought to the Nueces County jail for protection against mob violence, were removed from the jail last night to be returned to Wharton.

Seven of the negroes, two women and five men, were brought here late last Thursday afternoon by Texas Rangers and county officers from the El Campo and Wharton section, and another was brought here Wednesday, according to Jailer John Ganc.

Murder charges have been filed against four of the negroes by Sheriff E. J. Koehl of Wharton County.

The negroes were spirited out of El Campo by the posse of officers after a mob of several hundred persons had stormed two jails in an effort to take them.

They were arrested in connection with the slaying of Tip Simmons of El Campo in a negro cafe. Simmons who was stabbed to death when he attempted to take a drunken negro woman from the place.

Officers questioned the negroes here last night, and it was understood all had made statements concerning the killing of Simmons with the exception of one negro woman who refused to talk.

Among the officers who accompanied the prisoners back to Wharton were Rangers E. M. Davenport and M. W. Williamson, and sheriffs and their deputies from El Campo, Wharton, Victoria and other points in that section.

PITTSBURG, KAN
SUN

JUN 19 1936

Outwitting a Mob.

A mob in a Texas community, out to lynch nine Negroes after the slaying of a white officer at a Negro celebration, was foiled in its plans. The officers took the prisoners to safety ahead of the mob. They were whisked from jail to jail but the important thing is that the mob did not obtain possession of the prisoners.

The story from Texas was not in line with the usual stories about mobs that form in the South and set out to lynch some Negroes. In this case, the officers not only used intelligence but they were determined not to have a lynching. Being so determined and knowing how to defeat the mob, the officers prevented wholesale murder by the mob.

What these Texas officers accomplished can be accomplished by other officers throughout the South, or elsewhere, if the other officers are brave and possess common sense and desire to do their duty. Mobs are notoriously cowardly when faced by real courage. A mob normally has all the advantage in the world over some poor wretch, or several wretches, picked to be slain. The intended victims cannot fight back. But when an officer, armed with the authority of the law and carrying a gun, confronts a mob and does not flinch, the mob cowardice appears. Members of the mob do not want to be known. They are, ordinarily, fearful of prosecution. They are brave only when hidden and unknown. Officers, many of them at least, know these facts. So their failure to intervene and save mob victims indicts them as in sympathy with mob rule.

The Texas incident Wednesday night puts a proposition squarely up to officers throughout the South—which, however, they will probably ignore.

DANVILLE, ILL.
COMMERCIAL NEWS

JUN 26 1936

A DEFEATED MOB

In the midst of reports of activity of the Black Legion in beating a woman in Michigan and the story of the flogging of a minister and young woman in Arkansas, we have one cheering bit of news. In Texas resolute officers of the law saved nine Negoes from mob violence.

These Negroes were held on a charge of killing a white deputy sheriff. A crowd gathered, but officers transferred their prisoners from jail to jail until they were safe from the mob. The mob searched several jails but the sheriffs were just ahead of them. The alertness and determination of these officers makes a bright spot in the disgraceful story of mob violence in America.

Lynchings - 1936
Prevented.

Texas.

5441

10 NEGROES SAVED FROM TEXAS MOB; TWO JAILS RAIDED

250 Men Fail To Find Murder Suspects In Night Of Terror

OFFICER IS SLAIN

Prisoners Kept Moving To Prevent Mass Lynching

By United Press.

EL CAMPO, Tex., June 18.—Members of a mob seeking 10 Negroes, suspected in the slaying of Tim Simmons, 30, special officer at Wharton, today set fire to the cafe-dance hall where Simmons was killed.

The blaze was quickly extinguished and damage was slight.

The mob two hours before had surrounded the Matagorda County Jail shortly after the Negroes had been removed for safekeeping.

The 10 suspects—six men and four women—were arrested during the day for questioning. Simmons was stabbed to death when he sought to stop a drunken brawl between Negroes celebrating payment of the bonus.

Jails Searched

It was believed that the Negroes had been removed to the Corpus Christi Jail.

About 9 p.m. yesterday the mob—estimated at 250 persons—searched the Wharton County Jail at Wharton, first announcing they had come to lynch the Negroes. Sheriff E. J. Koehl told the would-be lynchers the Negroes had been taken away. When mob members refused to listen, the officers permitted four men to search the premises.

The crowd left and went to Bay City, 25 miles away. Sheriff Koehl had informed Sheriff Harris Milner, of Matagorda County, that the mob was en route. Milner also let a delegation search his jail to prove that the suspects were gone.

Shot Two Negroes

The belief the Negroes had been taken to Corpus Christi was based on the fact that removal of the 10 to Houston—90 miles from Bay City—would have necessitated running through the territory where resentment was highest against those who killed Simmons.

Simmons was killed about a block from the business district of El Campo (Wharton County), after he had shot and wounded two Negroes. One of the six Negro men arrested, who gave the name of Major Douglas, signed a statement that he attended the party, Sheriff Koehl said.

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9 TEXAS NEGROES SAVED FROM MOB

Officers Outwit Lynchers After Deputy Is Slain At 'Bonus Celebration'

EL CAMPO, TEXAS, June 18.—(AP)—Resolute South Texas police officers came out victorious tonight in a grim game of hide and seek with a lynch mob which hunted in vain for nine negroes, held for killing a white deputy sheriff during a "bonus celebration."

The threat of violence faded as alert officers after hustling their quarry from jail to jail ahead of a crowd of 300 persons during the night, finally placed them safely in a cell they described as being "out of the danger area."

Early today defeated in an all-night search in vain for the negroes—five men and four women—the crowd dispersed after setting fire to a cafe where the deputy sheriff, Tip Simmons, was stabbed to death as he attempted to quiet a disturbance among the negroes.

With the officers constantly holding a slight lead, the irate mob searched the jails at Wharton, Bay City and here, only to find each time the quarry had eluded them.

A 10th negro was arrested today and, like the others, was removed for safekeeping to an undisclosed jail. Deputy Sheriff A. H. Reith firmly refused to give any hint as to the whereabouts of the prisoners.

Authorities had filed no charges against any of the negroes and indicated they would take no action for several days, allowing ample time for tension to abate.

To pacify the mob sheriffs at Wharton and Bay City allowed a few members of the group to go through the jails and see for themselves that the negroes were not there. The prisoners had been transferred before the mob reached the towns.

Sheriff E. J. Koehl said the crowd gathered in front of the Wharton jail about 11:30 o'clock last night, demanding that the negroes be turned over to it. After a search convinced them the negroes were elsewhere, the mob went to Bay City, reaching there about midnight. Sheriff Harris Milner permitted members to search the jail there and the mob disappeared in the direction of El Campo.

Officers said they believed they had in custody all of the negroes involved in the killing of Simmons, a World War veteran.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
SUN

JUN 18 1936

NINE NEGROES SAFE FROM LYNCH PARTY

Sheriff Hides Them Away From Texas Mob.

WHARTON, Texas, June 18 (U. P.).—Nine Negroes, saved from lynching by the quick action of the authorities, were secreted today in a distant jail.

A mob of 250 persons out to avenge the murder of a special officer, searched two jails for the Negroes, made a last gesture of protest by setting fire to a cafe-dance hall at El Campo, where the murder occurred, and then dispersed. Firemen extinguished the blaze before it caused much damage.

Sheriff Koehl, who helped maneuver the Negroes to safety, said that one has confessed stabbing Tip Simmons, the officer, and has implicated four others. The murder occurred when Simmons tried to quell a drunken fight at a Negro dance, where payment of the bonus was being celebrated. He shot two Negroes before he was slashed fatally.

The Negroes, including three women, were believed to be secreted in Corpus Christi.

"I think the bunch is safe now," Sheriff Koehl said. "I don't believe they will be found. I don't look for more thouble. The mob didn't hamper the firemen at El Campo."

NEW YORK JOURNAL

JUN 18 1936

OFFICER SLAIN; LYNCH MOB FOILED

WHARTON, Tex., June 18 (By International News Service).—Mob spirit which flared in the night in Wharton and Matagorda counties as the result of the fatal stabbing of Officer Tim Simmons by a crowd of Negroes, apparently had quieted today.

Part of the mob, unable to find any of nine Negroes in jail here or at Bay City, vented their wrath by setting fire to a cafe in El Campo, where Simmons was stabbed.

Simmons had gone to quiet a noisy bonus payment Negro celebration in the cafe. First there was an argument, then several Negroes were said to have attacked the officer. He fired two shots, slightly wounding two Negroes, before he was slashed to death.

JAIL NINE.

Six Negro men and three women were arrested late yesterday and put in jail here without charges.

A crowd of about 150 gathered at El Campo and started for the jail with the announced intention of taking the prisoners from the jail.

Sheriff E. J. Koehler, informed that a mob was on the way, sent the prisoners to Bay City in Matagorda County.

When the mob arrived he let four or five men search the jail and they reported the prisoners gone. The crowd then started for Bay City but State Ranger Ebi Davenport slipped the nine prisoners away to an unannounced place.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
DAILY NEWS

JUN 19 1936

COLORED FOLKS' SEGREGATION LYNCHERS' AIM

Wharton, Tex., June 18 (U.P.).—Enraged residents of El Campo today moved to segregate colored folk in retaliation for the fatal slashing of Special Officer Tip Simmons, a white man who sought to maintain order at a colored bonus party.

Citizens drew up petitions to be presented to the town Council to force colored people to move from El Campo to Ox Blood, a settlement adjacent to the town.

Meanwhile, nine colored suspects in Simmons' slaying were held secretly "somewhere in south Texas" lest a narrowly averted lynching attempt be repeated.

Sheriff E. J. Koehl of Wharton, who thwarted the mob, appeased its wrath somewhat today by announcing he had obtained confessions from two suspects, one a woman. Residents still talked of lynching as soon as they locate the suspects.

Two hundred and fifty white men and women stormed the Wharton and Bay City jails last night, each time shortly after Koehl and his deputies had moved the prisoners to safer lodging.

Allowed to send delegations through the jails, the mob returned to El Campo and burned the cafe-dance hall where the slaying occurred.

Columbia, S. C. State
June 19, 1936

RACIAL FEELING FLARES IN TEXAS

Move to Segregate Negroes as Result of Fatal Slashing.

Wharton, Texas, June 18—(UP)—Enraged residents of El Campo today moved to segregate Negroes in retaliation for the fatal slashing of Special Officer Tip Simmons, a white man, who had sought to maintain order at a Negro bonus party.

Citizens drew up petitions to be presented to the town council to force Negroes to move from El Campo to Oxblood, a Negro settlement adjacent to the town.

Meanwhile nine Negro suspects in Simmons' playing were held secretly "somewhere in south Texas" lest a narrowly averted lynching attempt be repeated.

Sheriff E. J. Koehl of Wharton, who thwarted the mob, appeased its wrath somewhat today by announcing he had obtained confessions from two of the suspects, one a woman. Residents still talked of lynching as soon as they had located the suspects.

Two hundred and fifty white men and women stormed the Wharton and Bay City jails last night, each time, shortly after Koehl and his deputies had moved the prisoners to safer lodging.

Allowed to send delegations through the jails, the mob returned to El Campo and burned the cafe dance hall where the slaying had occurred.

Koehl said that Simmons was employed by Homer Robertson, Negro proprietor of the dance hall, to keep order. Simmons sought to quiet an argument between two Negro women in the doorway of the place. One of the quarrelers was Mattie Williams, Negress, under a five-year suspended sentence for stabbing another Negro to death.

She assertedly drew a knife and cursed the white man. Some one then struck Simmons from the rear, hurling him to the street. According to Kohl, two Negro women and two men leaped upon the prostrate white man and slashed him with razors and knives.

Simmons was able to draw his revolver and fire two shots, which wounded two of his assailints. Gaping wounds in his throat and abdomen, however, quickly caused him to bleed to death. There were scores of cuts on the body.

The Negroes dispersed quickly. Koehl and deputies made nine arrests and lodged the suspects in Wharton jail.

El Campo residents spread word of a "necktie party." Scores of men, armed with pistols and shotguns, assembled and a march on the Wharton jail was started.

Koehl and five deputies quickly moved their prisoners to Bay City. When the mob arrived in Wharton, Koehl met it and said the prisoners were not in the building.

"Tear it down," scramed leaders of the mob.

Koehl prevailed upon them to send a delegation to search the jail. Three men went through the building and informed their companions that the Negroes had been removed. Many of the mob then moved on to Bay City.

The same procedure was gone through. Sheriff Harris Ilner took four lynchers through his jail to prove that the Negroes had been spirited away again.

Lynchings-1936
Prevented

Virginia

5442

OFFICERS PREVENT LYNCHING

Journal and Guide

Special to Journal and Guide

SOUTH BOSCTON, Va. — A lynching was narrowly averted here late Tuesday night, when quick thinking officers spirited 18-year old Louis Younger to the Danville jail for safekeeping, just as an angry mob gathered at the doors of the Halifax jail. 11-7-36

Younger has been jailed as a suspect in the alleged attempted attack on a five-year old white girl. Police admitted they had no definite evidence against Younger.

NEGRO IS ARRESTED.

SOUTH BOSTON, Va., Nov. 3.—(AP)—Louis Younger, 18-year-old negro, was rushed under police guard from Halifax to the Danville jail tonight shortly before an angry mob gathered at the Halifax jail. The negro was held on charges of attacking an five-year-old white girl in Halifax county earlier today.

Pair Who Were In County Jail For Safe Keeping Tried

Repudiate Confession But Gets Life And Fifty Years Imprisonment

Journal and Guide

Special to Journal and Guide

CAPE CHARLES, Va.—An alleged signed confession which he repudiated at his trial on a charge of murder, sent Caleb Scarborough 33, of Eastville to the state penitentiary for life, and his companion, George Burrows, 21 to prison for fifty years following their trial in Northampton County Circuit Court last week.

The pair, who were held for some time in the Norfolk County jail in Portsmouth for safekeeping, were charged with the murder of Reginald Charnock, white gate watchman for the Eastern Shore Canning Company of Machipongo. The slaying, according to evidence at the hearing, occured on the night of last September 26.

The pair were carried to the Norfolk County jail in Portsmouth by Sheriff George T. Turner of Northampton ounty after rumors of possible mob violence were heard. They were held strictly incommunicado by Sheriff A. A. Wendell of Norfolk County.

Sentence was pronounced by Judge E. Nottingham.

Charnock's body, badly mangled, according to the evidence, was found lying on the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks near Eastville. It was testified that Charnock engaged in an argument with Scarborough and Burrows at a filling station about 11:30 o'clock on the night he was found dead. After exchanging heated words, Charnock left the station and was followed by the two men. Later his body was found lying on the railroad tracks.

Scarborough and Burrows were arrested at their homes and after being questioned by Officers, Burrows is said to have accused Scarborough with striking the fatal blow. The confession, which was introduced in evidence, stated that the pair had followed Charnock, finally caught up with him and a fight followed during which Scarborough struck the white man, causing him to fall back on the tracks directly in the path of a train which left Cape Charles at 11:10 p. m.

Lynchings-1936
Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Alabama.

5443

NEGRO HUNTED IN BESSEMER ATTACK

Post

Hounds Fail In Widespread Search For Assailant

7-25-36

BESSEMER, July 25.—(Special.)—Police and deputy sheriffs here today continued their hunt for a Negro who is reported to have attempted to criminally assault a 33-year-old white woman at Lee's Junction, a mile and a half northwest of Bessemer about midnight last night.

Chief Deputy Sheriff W. T. Kemp said the woman, the mother of one daughter, was unable to give a detailed description of the Negro, who she said was about medium size, wearing a white shirt and white trousers.

Efforts of bloodhounds to track the Negro were unavailing.

Ala

Anniston Negro To Plead Innocent In Attack Case

ANNISTON, ALA., July 27.—(AP)—C. H Young, Anniston attorney, said today that Roosevelt Collins, negro, would plead innocent to charges that he attacked Mrs. Joel Hill of Alexandria on July 13 at her farm home there.

Young, one of three attorneys appointed by the court to defend the negro, said a motion for continuance and a motion for a change of venue would be made when the trial opens Aug. 3. E. W. Harmon and Hugh Walker are associated with Mr. Young in the case.

Young and Walker conferred with Collins at Kilby Prison where he has been held for safe keeping since his arrest the day after the crime.

He was rushed away from Alexandria following his arrest, and National Guardsmen were called out to preserve order as disturbances arose in many sections of the city.

Negro Wounded By Girl's Father

Advertiser

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Oct. 10.—(AP)—Shot down as he was described by an 11-year-old white school girl today as "looking like" a man who tried to attack her, Curtis Cobb, 24, negro school janitor, was in critical condition in a hospital here. J. G. Weaver, 50, was charged with assault with intent to murder, in the shooting.

10-11-36

Cobb denied he was the negro who accosted Ethel Weaver and Katherine Ballinger, 10, as they were returning home from school yesterday.

"I never saw that little girl until today," he said at the hospital.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Charles McCombs quoted Weaver as saying "I shot him (Cobb) three times when my little girl said 'Daddy, that looks like the one.' "

Ala

The negro was wounded in the abdomen, and his chances for recovery were regarded as slight. He was shot after his arrest by special deputies, who took him to a spot near New Merkle, mining community, where Weaver operates a small coal mine, to allow Ethel Weaver to view him. Ethel was brought to the spot by her father, in his car.

The Weaver girl suffered a broken arm late yesterday when, she said, "a negro jumped from behind a tree and grabbed Katherine and I." Katherine broke away, and ran to summon aid. Ethel said she struggled with the negro and they both fell into a ravine, and she lost consciousness. She was found, in a semi-conscious condition, by her father. The Cobbs negro has been janitor at a school near the one attended by the two white girls for nearly two years.

Wounded Negro In Critical Condition

Advertiser

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Oct. 11.—(AP)—A 24-year-old negro school janitor, Curtis Cobb, remained in a critical condition at a hospital today from pistol shots allegedly fired by the father of an 11-year-old white girl who said Cobb "looked like" a man who attempted to assault her and a schoolmate Friday.

10-12-36

J. G. Weaver, 50-year-old father of the girl, was under $[illegible] bond on charges of assault with intent to murder in the shooting, which Chief Deputy Sheriff Charles McCombs said Weaver admitted.

J. A. Hightower, a special officer at Overton Mines, said he picked up the negro Friday night and that Weaver shot after his daughter, Ethel, told him: "Dady, that looks like the man." Three bullets struck the negro and he was given little chance of recovery."

"I never saw that little girl until today," Cobb said at the hospital yesterday.

The child suffered a broken arm and other injuries while tussling, she said, with a negro who "jumped from behind a tree and grabbed us."

She was accompanied at the time by Katherine Ballinger, who said she escaped and spread word of Ethel's plight. The child was found dazed at the foot of a short cliff by her father. She later was brought to a hospital for treatment.

Whitee Woman Accuses Negro Of Attacking Her

Advertiser

Acting on information furnished by a white woman residing at the Union Hotel, police yesterday took into custody a negro, who gave his name as Eddie Williams, 27, and charged him with criminal assault.

11-15-36

The woman told police that she and another woman were turned out of an automobile by two white men at a point on the old Selma Road. She said they were walking back to the city when the negro approached them and assaulted her. Bloodhounds were used to trail Williams to a cabin near the spot where the alleged assault took place. He was identified by the woman, police said.

Ala.

Lynchings-1936
Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Alabama.

5444

Negro Sought In Attack On Birmingham Woman

IRONDALE, ALA., Feb. 6.—(AP)—Sheriff's deputies and a posse of citizens today followed track dogs on the trail of a negro who attacked Mrs. Hattie Duncan, 44, earlier in the day.

Mrs. Duncan told officers she was walking along the road between Irondale and Trussville when the negro accosted and grabbed her. The negro, carrying a shotgun, she said, threatened her life and dragged her from the road.

Big Negro Sought In Huntsville Case

HUNTSVILLE, ALA., March 31.—(Special)—Pursuing a "hot lead," State, county and city officers hoped for the arrest today of a giant negro in the brutal midnight attack which brought death to 19-year-old Vivian Woodward as she walked home from a movie Saturday night.

Advertiser 4/1/36

Chief of Police H. C. Blakemore said "We have a hot lead and are following it up. It looks like we may get results."

Meanwhile, four negroes, saved from an angry mob Sunday night by prompt action of Huntsville officers, were held in county jail at Birmingham, where they were taken for safe keeping pending the completion of investigations of the crime.

The result of constant questioning of the negroes held at Birmingham was not announced, but the search for a "giant negro who wears a number 11 shoe" was intensified here, and descriptions of the man sought were sent officers in nearby states.

Information sent out said, tersely, "Wanted for the murder of Vivian Woodward."

Montgomery, Ala.

Hundreds attended Miss Woodward's funeral yesterday. She was the daughter of a city employe, and was a graduate of Huntsville High School here.

Negro Held For Attack In Coosa

Jailed Here After Rescue From Goodwater Mob By Girl-Victim's Mother

A 24-year-old negro farm hand paced a cell in Montgomery County Jail last night awaiting for "the law to take its course," having been saved from a Coosa County mob at Goodwater Friday night by tearful pleadings of the mother of a 7-year-old girl he is accused of assaulting.

The mother, Mrs. R. M. Hawkins, remonstrated with the mob to "let the law take its course," while a group of quick-thinking citizens and officers got the negro, Oscar Patterson, away from the Goodwater Jail on a pretext they were taking him to a physician for examination. They rushed him here for safe-keeping.

Deputy Sheriff R. N. Franklin said Will Gilliland, a hardware merchant, whose car was used to spirit the negro away, also pleaded with the fast-growing group of approximately 20 citizens not to commit violence. Franklin said a warrant for criminal assault, punishable by death, had been taken.

At Georgiana yesterday Circuit Court Judge W. W. Wallace said a special session of the Coosa County Grand Jury would be called, possibly Monday, to investigate the assault which authorities said occurred in a field near the Hawkins home.

The mother said the daughter told her what had happened and accused the negro, who was arrested quickly. The child was reported in a serious condition and was under care of a physician who said she had been attacked.

Montgomery County Jail attaches said the negro had not talked of the charge with them.

Negro Confesses Attack In Coosa

Sheriff Mack C. Waites, of Coosa County, said Sunday that Oscar Patterson, 24-year-old negro farm hand, "confessed to me and several other officers at the Montgomery County Jail" in the assault of a seven-year-old girl near Goodwater Friday afternoon.

Deputy R. N. Franklin, at Goodwater, confirmed the sheriff's statement as did attaches at the Montgomery jail, where the negro was taken after being saved from possible violence. The mother of the assault victim pleaded with a mob to "let the law take its course."

Sheriff Waites said that Will Gilliland, who also pleaded with the mob, was present "when Patterson talked." It was Gilliland who actually got the negro away from the Goodwater jail by a ruse he and officers were taking him to a physician for examination. They sped to Montgomery.

The child was reported by an examining physician to have been seriously injured.

Sheriff Waites said that Circuit Judge W. W. Wallace, of Columbiana, had informed him he expected to call a special session of the Coosa County Grand Jury tomorrow, but he had received no official communication directing him to summon the jurors.

Eufaula Girl, 16, Assaulted By Negr; Kilby Bloohounds Sent

Bloodhounds late last night were being rushed from Kilby Prison here to Eufaula to aid Sheriff John Pitt Williams, Barbour County, and his deputies in tracking down an unidentified negro who, shortly after dark, is reported to have dragged a 16-year-old white girl from her home, eight miles east of her, and assaulted her in a nearby cornfield.

In a long-distance telephone message to The Advertiser, Sheriff Williams said a number of aroused citizens had offered their aid, but that he had pleaded with them to remain in the background to give the bloodhounds an unobstructed trail.

The sheriff said the girl reported she was seized by the negro when she walked from her home into the back yard, dragged away into a cornfield, and criminally assaulted. A search was begun immediately after the girl returned to her home and told of what had occurred.

Sheriff Williams, at 11:20 last night, was awaiting the arrival in Eufaula of six bloodhounds from Kilby Prison, in charge of William DeBardelaben, dog warden. Should he be successful in keeping angered citizens from the vicinity of the crime, he told The Advertiser, he believed he would have an excellent chance of apprehending the negro.

The dog warden, with his charges, left Montgomery for Eufaula about 10:55 p.m.

Early reports from Eufaula were that the girl had not been badly hurt.

NEGRO HUNTED IN ASSAULT ON GIRL

Barbour Officers Call For Bloodhounds In Search

5-26-36

EUFAULA, Ala., May 25—(AP)—Sheriff John Pitt Williams, of Barbour County, with his deputies late Monday night was searching for an unidentified Negro who, he said shortly after dusk dragged a 16-year-old white girl from her farm home eight miles east of here into a cornfield and assaulted her.

The girl returned to her home and notified her parents who called Sheriff Williams. A group of citizens offered to aid in the search, but Sheriff Williams asked that they remain near Eufaula to give bloodhounds all possible chance to trail the Negro. Birmingham, Ala.

The bloodhounds were sent from Kilby Prison, Montgomery, in charge of William DeBardeleben, dog warden, and were expected to arrive late Monday.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
May 21, 1936

Negro Freed In Attack Charge At Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., May 20.—(AP)—A young negro WPA worker, Charlie Render, was acquitted by a jury today of a charge that he attacked a white woman.

Render was accused of assaulting the woman in a wooded section near suburban Irondale last February. The woman picked him from a group of several negroes and positively identified him on the witness stand as her assailant.

However, several white persons testified the negro was working on a WPA project at the time of the assault.

COOSA JURORS CONDEMN NEGRO

Is Found Guilty Of Assault On Eight-Year-Old Girl At Speedy Trial

By United Press.

MONTGOMERY, June 16.—Oscar Patterson, Negro, was in jail here today under sentence to die in the electric chair on July 17 for criminally assaulting a eight-year-old white girl in Coosa County last month.

A Coosa County jury debated his fate only 45 minutes before returning the death verdict early last night at Rockford. Patterson was immediately brought back here by members of the State Highway Patrol and an escort of National Guardsmen.

Order prevailed at the trial yesterday, but the National Guardsmen and the patrolmen did not relax their vigilance until the prisoner was back in jail here. He pleaded not guilty but did not take the stand in his own defense.

Both the little girl and the mother, who pleaded with a group of angry citizens to "let the law take its course" when Patterson was apprehended last month, testified for the prosecution.

Patterson, who allegedly confessed the crime while in jail here, was sentenced by Judge W. W. Wallace of Columbiana who presided.

Negro Convicted Of Coosa Attack

ROCKFORD, ALA., June 15.—(AP)—Oscar Patterson, 24-year-old negro farm hand, was convicted and sentenced to death by a Coosa County Circuit jury today on a charge of criminally assaulting a seven-year-old white girl near Goodwater last May 23.

Circuit Judge W. W. Wallace fixed July 17 as the date of execution, and the negro immediately was started to Kilby Prison at Montgomery under protection of eight highway patrolmen and 25 national guardsmen who stood guard throughout the one-day trial.

The verdict was reached in 30 minutes.

Patterson was saved from violence at the Goodwater jail the night of his arrest as the mother of the injured child pleaded with a mob to "let the law take its course."

While she was pleading, the negro was gotten out of the jail on the pretense he was being taken to a physician for examination. Officers sped him to Montgomery for safe-keeping.

He was indicted by a special grand jury a week after the alleged crime in a field near the child's home. Patterson was employed by the girl's father.

Solicitor A. L. Hardegree placed both the young girl and her mother on the stand in directing his case against the negro, who pleaded innocent but did not testify in his own behalf.

Adj. Gen. John C. Coleman, who ordered out the guards, said he anticipated no trouble and sent the troops there "purely as a precautionary measure."

NEGRO SOUGHT FOR ATTACKING WOMAN SHOOTS NEIGHBOR

Searchers Believe Fugitive Trapped Near Anniston

FEELING IS HIGH

Officers Prepare To Protect Assailant If Captured

By United Press.

ANNISTON, July 13.—A Negro who attempted to assault Mrs. Joseph Hill, farm woman, today shot and severely wounded J. M. Hicks, a neighbor of the woman, when the latter ran to her rescue.

The countryside in Northern Calhoun County was alive with possemen as citizens joined officers in a search for the attacker.

Reports reaching here from the isolated district said Mrs. Hill was in her garden when approached by the Negro. The latter, after a short conversation with the woman, threw a coat over her head and knocked her to the ground, it was said.

Runs To Assistance

Hicks, witnessing the attack from a distance, ran to the garden and was shot by the Negro, who then fled.

Bloodhounds were sent for from Pell City but they had not yet arrived at noon. Scores of possemen in automobiles patroled the roads of the district while others scoured the adjacent woodlands.

The Negro, who was unidentified, was said to be armed with both a shotgun and a pistol.

Condition of Hicks was not immediately learned. A physician was sent from Anniston to treat his wounds.

Reported Surrounded

A report that the Negro had been surrounded and was attempting to hold the posse at bay was not verified.

Shoes which were said to belong to the attacker were sent to the sheriff's office here.

All available deputies from the sheriff's office here were sent into the area.

Anniston Star
7-13-32

Swamp Hiding Negro Attacker; Feeling Mounts

Adjutant General Orders Possemen To Disperse As Precautionary Move

Believed Trapped

Troops Watch To Protect Accused While Kilby's Bloodhounds Join Hunt

ALEXANDRIA, ALA., July 13.—(AP)—As darkness descended. State militiamen pressed into a swamp near here late today, bent on ferreting out a heavily armed negro sought for an attempted attack on a white woman and the wounding of a pursuing posseman.

Authorities reported J. A. Hicks was wounded slightly in an exchange of shots as the negro was flushed and fled into the woods.

Feeling ran high. Gov. Graves ordered two companies of national guardsmen to the scene and dispatched State highway patrolmen to aid an orderly search. The Governor acted on request of Circuit Judge R. B. Carr, of Calhoun County.

Bloodhounds were sent from Kilby Prison, Montgomery.

Coleman At Scene

Graves, at Montgomery, said State Adjt. Gen. Coleman and Asst. Adjt. Gen. John T. Moore had rushed to the manhunt scene from nearby Anniston where they were in camp.

The Governor instructed Coleman to order possemen out of the woods, as a precaution, and to let the bloodhounds pick up a trail.

Possemen said the negro was armed with a shotgun and pistol.

The citizens aiding the search in the early stages were estimated at nearly 500, and they were armed with a wide variety of weapons, including old muskets and high-powered rifles.

Reports from the outlying rural area said the white woman, a farm wife, was approached by the negro as she worked in her garden today, and that a coat was thrown over her head. The woman screamed, attracting the attention of a nearby road stand operator who chased the assailant into a woods and gave the alarm.

Woods Surrounded

Officers and possemen surrounded the woods. The negro was flushed, exchanged shots with his pursuers and dashed deeper into the underbrush.

Capt. C. C. Whitehead commanded the troops, Company "F," dispatched from Gadsden.

Undaunted by darkness the troops kept up the search tonight.

The eight bloodhounds from Kilby Prison arrived at dusk and were put in the woods immediately, seeking a trail. The swamp where the negro was believed hiding is six miles from Alexandria and about four miles square.

Troops, highway patrolmen and possemen were stationed on all roads and at points around the swamp, as the dogs were unleashed. One report was heard that a negro had stopped at a house and asked treatment for a leg wound. This was not confirmed.

The woman assailed by the negro was not hurt seriously.

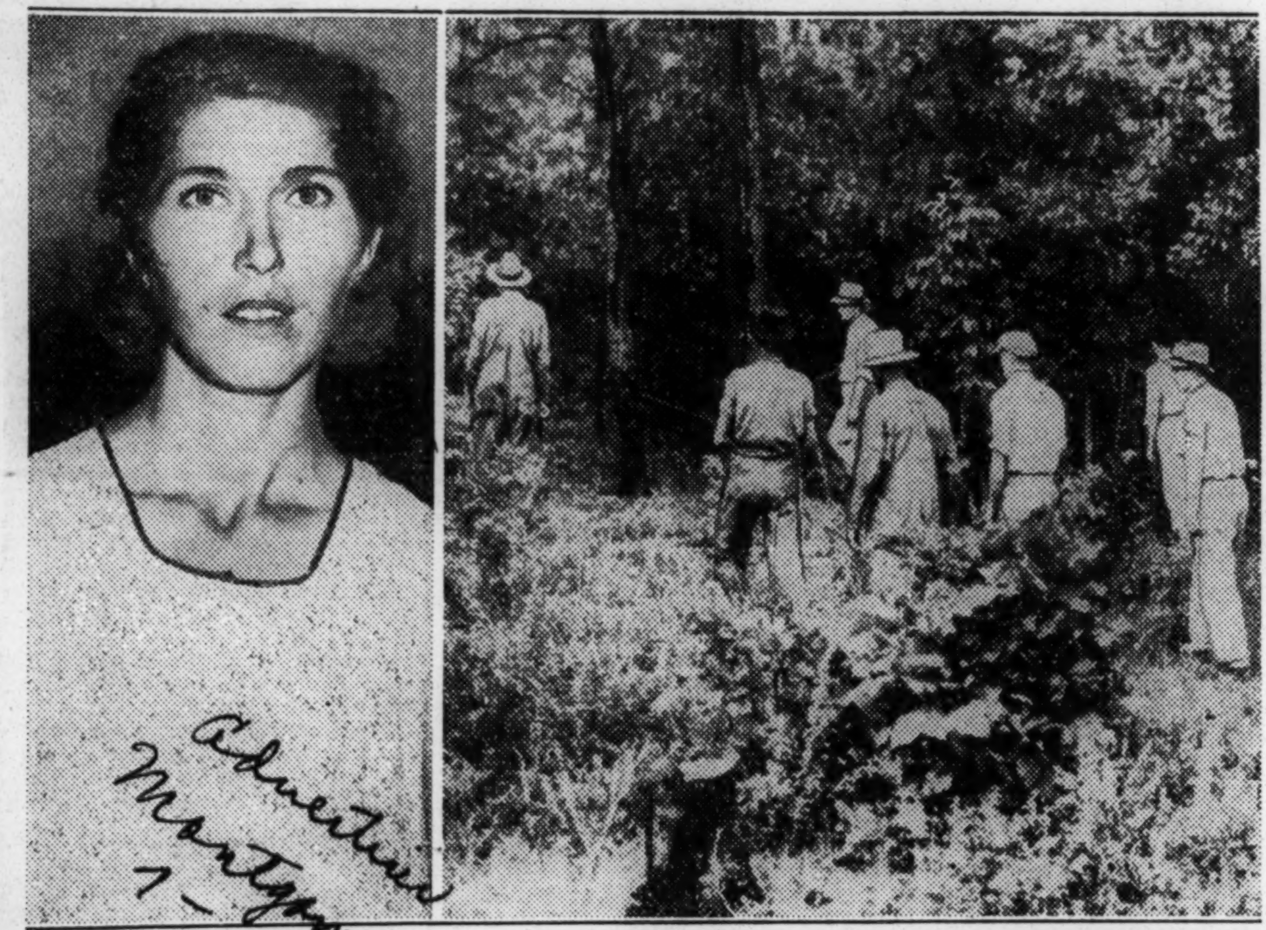
Advertiser
Montgomery Ala
7-14-32

Alabama.

Lynchings-1936
Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

5445

As Alabama Swamp Was Combed For Assailant



Advertiser
Montgomery
7-16-36

NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS and posses of heavily-armed citizens joined in searching swampland near Alexandria, Ala., for a negro who attempted to assault Mrs. Joe Hill (left) wife of a farmer, as she worked in her garden. Possemen are shown (right) cautiously advancing into the swamp where the fugitive wounded one of the searchers. A suspect, arrested in an Anniston residential section, was spirited away from the Anniston jail last night by soldiers and officers after a throng of several hundred citizens milled about the jail. It was reported that the negro was being taken to Kilby Prison by highway patrolmen, but late last night the party had not arrived at Kilby.

Calhoun County Black Confesses Criminal Attack

Ring He Offered Victim To Cease Her Outcries Is Found And Identified

Officers Satisfied

Say Confession And Other Evidence Render Case Against Collins Secure

Roosevelt Collins, the 32-year-old negro whom State officers and National Guardsden saved from the outraged citizenry of Calhoun County, faced Capt. Potter Smith, of the State Highway Patrol, in a cell at Kilby Prison yesterday morning and confessed that he criminally assaulted Mrs. Joe Hill Monday in a thicket near her farm home in the Alexandria community.

The negro's confession, buttressed by Mrs. Hill's positive identification and the dovetailing of other evidence, convinced officers that his guilt was established and led to the belief that he may have been the hitherto unidentified criminal in a previous assault in Calhoun County which received small public notice.

One bit of evidence upon which officers depended to make their case stronger involved a cheap finger ring, which Mrs. Hill said the negro proffered to her after the crime as an inducement to cease her outcries. Mrs. Hill related this incident before the negro's capture. Later a search of the house where he was found yielded a mud incrusted ring which Mrs. Hill identified. Also found was the negro's coat which Mrs. Hill said he threw over her head to stifle her cries of alarm.

Also in his audience at Kilby when Collins confessed to Capt. Smith were Patrol Officers Wilson Armstrong and H. B. Moody.

Journal
Montgomery
7-16-36

Crime Reconstructed

From the confession and Mrs. Hill's account, the assault was reconstructed substantially thus:

Seizing the woman in her garden at the rear of her home, it is said, the negro dragged her into the woods nearby where he accomplished his purpose, and thereafter, in an attempt to still her outcries, offered her a cheap ring such as may be purchased for a dime at any five-and-ten-cent store. When she continued screaming he threw his coat over her face and was in the act of wrapping it about her head when a woman neighbor who had heard the cries and hurried to her assistance, appeared on the scene and the attacker ran.

Arrested at the home of an aunt by two deputy sheriffs Tuesday afternoon, Collins was turned over to Capt. Smith who, with a squad of patrol officers, immediately transferred the prisoner to Birmingham. Taken there Tuesday night and the negro brought before her, Mrs. Hill immediately and positively identified him as her attacker, it was stated. Previously, it is said, Mrs. Hill had furnished officers with a detailed description of the negro who assaulted her—that description tallying exactly with Collins's appearance.

Collins was committed to Kilby Prison at about 3 a.m. yesterday following his arrival there in the custody of Capt. Smith and accompanying officers. His confession was made, it was announced, soon after he was locked in a cell. According to official information, the negro admitted attacking Mrs. Hill, and also shooting and wounding one of a party of white men that chased him for some distance in the swamp into which he escaped.

Officers Praised

High praise for the capture and safe transfer to Kilby of the negro was accorded yesterday to local officers in Calhoun County and the Highway Patrol by Gov. Graves, who said it was a "fine piece of work."

The negro, it is said, has served two separate terms in the penitentiary, and is wanted by authorities in Talladega County on a charge of grand larceny.

All but one of three companies of national guardsmen called into active service to aid in the arrest of the woman's assailant, and the protection of the prisoner pending his trial, had been disbanded yesterday at Anniston by Adjt. Gen. John C. Coleman, who was in personal command of the troops.

Early yesterday Gen. Coleman reported to the governor that a young negro was shot in the leg with a rifle Tuesday night by one of a group of white men who passed him on a street in Anniston, but said that the time his report was made all was quiet.

Withdrawal Of Troops Begins At Anniston

ANNISTON, ALA., July 15—(AP)—Withdrawal of State troops began today as this city, where race feeling flared to dangerous proportions yesterday, settled to its usual peaceful way.

Meanwhile, a negro, accused of attacking a white woman, was placed in Kilby State Prison.

At Montgomery, Walter K. McAdory, chief of the State Highway Patrol, announced the negro, Roosevelt Collins, confessed he dragged Mrs. Joe Hill, a farm wife, into a woods near Alexandria, Ala., Monday, and attacked her.

Times
Montgomery
7-1-36

Judge R. B. Carr ordered a special session of the Calhoun Grand Jury Monday to consider charges against Collins. Criminal attack is a capital crime in Alabama.

While the search was on, indigation flared here.

Armed with machine guns, tear gas and rifles, State soldiers patrolled Anniston's negro residential district last night, after negroes were chased through the streets and several hundred men milled about the jail, apparently believing the accused negro was held there.

The high-pitched feeling apparently ebbed today when it was learned the negro had been placed in Kilby, 100 miles away.

Collins was captured yesterday in the Anniston negro residential section, after National Guardsmen, State patrolmen and local authorities aided by possemen had hunted him in a swamp near Alexandria, 10 miles away, for two days.

Announcing the negro's statement, McAdory said:

"He said he came up to the Hill home and saw Mrs. Hill setting out tomato plants. Then, he said, he grabbed her and she screamed, and he dragged her into the woods nearby. He said he attacked her there."

One posseman was shot in pursuit of the woman's assailant.

Adjt. Gen. John Coleman ordered demobilization of all but one unit of the State troops called here to restore order. About 200 guardsmen were on duty last night.

Victim's Husband Late Getting News Of Attack

GADSDEN, ALA., July 15—(AP)—Joel Hill heard something about a woman being attacked near Anniston Monday and that National Guardsmen and possemen were hunting a negro, but not until today did he learn the victim was his wife.

The drouth ruined his crop and he came to Gadsden a short time ago to find work, Hill said. Today he went back home to learn more about the incident that caused so much excitement in Calhoun County, brought troops from Birmingham and Gadsden and concentration of highway patrolmen to apprehend the negro and maintain law and order.

Hill worked in the steel mills here Monday and Tuesday while the excitement at Anniston and Alexandria was in full sway. After his day's labor he went to the home of a friend on an out of the way place near the Hammond mine in North Gadsden where he was staying.

The friend took no paper and the family knew nothing about the affair except what they had heard on the streets and in the mills.

Today Hill was called home when a friend in Anniston telephoned the steel mill office here to ask that he be advised of the incident and asked to come home.

WHITES ATTACK RACE RESIDENTS IN HEATED FEUD

ANNISTON, Ala., July 23—(ANP)—This little town in the region which fostered the Scottsboro cases was gradually returning to normal this week after a hectic 14-hours during which armed soldiers patrolled the streets to prevent anti-Negro demonstrations and fights following the alleged attack on a farm white matron.

State militia thwarted efforts to lynch Roosevelt Collins, charged by Mrs. Joe Hill, a farmer's wife, with throwing a coat over her head and attempting to rape her. State highway police took Collins away secretly to Birmingham and then to Kilby prison for safe-keeping.

Rumors that Collins was still in jail here contributed to the lynch feeling. Machine guns were mounted around the local jail and guardsmen posted. Seven white men were arrested on disorderly conduct charges. Gov. Bibb Graves, who ordered that Collins be protected at all costs, had more soldiers mobilized for service in this section.

The colored population of Anniston suffered. Negroes were chased through the streets. Whites went into the Negro section to start fights. Roosevelt Allen, 28, was shot in the leg by a passing automobile containing two white men. No serious injuries, however, were reported.

Mayor W. S. Coleman, out of town on business when the trouble started, returned and pleaded with crowds of angry whites to "go to your homes" and urged white residents to "avoid disturbances with Negroes." Many heeded his plea.

Grand Jury Indicts Negro At Anniston

ANNISTON, ALA., July 21.—(AP)—Roosevelt Collins, negro, was indicted by the Calhoun County grand jury in special session today, on a charge of attacking Mrs. Joe Hill, farm wife, July 13.

Collins was captured and taken to Kilby State Prison, Montgomery, after a two-day manhunt in which national guardsmen, State patrolmen, local authorities and armed citizens participated.

The white woman, victim of the attack, told her story to the grand jury yesterday. Authorities announced after the negro's arrest that Mrs. Hill identified him and that he later confessed at Kilby.

No announcement was made today of a date to try Collins. Two local attorneys were appointed by the court to defend him.

Purse Snatcher Felled By Brick

Negro Taken After Chase; Identified As Would-Be Assailant Of White Girl

Residents, pedestrians and motorists along six blocks of South Perry, High Court and Lee Streets were aroused early last night by the lusty cries of dozens of persons who joined in a successful pursuit of an 18-year-old negro who attempted to snatch a pocketbook from a young white woman, and who, within half an hour of his apprehension, was identified as the man who, on the previous night, had attempted to criminally assault another white woman at the point of a knife.

The negro, who was floored in an alley on the 300 block of Lee Street by a slender, unidentified white youth, after a battle of bricks and pieces of iron, gave his name as Elijah Thomas, 18, of Lowndes County, and former CCC worker in three Indiana camps. Thomas denied any part in the attempted snatch and blamed it upon a companion.

The disturbance last night began when the negro allegedly sprang out at a young white woman as she passed on the 400 block of South Perry Street and attempted to snatch her pocketbook. Instead of releasing the pocketbook, the intended victim clutched it more tightly and screamed. The negro relinquished his hold a moment, then grasped it once more.

When, however, two women ran down the steps of their homes in response to the cries, the negro fled southward toward High Street.

Then someone yelled, "Stop him! stop him!"

As if by magic, several young men went in pursuit and added their cries to the din. The negro swung down High Street towards Court, then turned northward on Court towards the Square. With each few yards the pursuers gained in numbers.

Dcdging and swinging his arms in defiance, the negro darted past the post-office. He changed his course a few times to avoid being thrown by those who tried to step in his path. Next he went, with undiminished speed, northward along Lee.

Traffic halted a moment at Montgomery and Lee Streets when the dark form shot past, followed now by policemen, as well as innumerable men and boys. Inside a cafe, Detectives McElvaine and Enzor heard the shouting. They darted out, jumped into their car, and raced along ahead of most of the crowd.

His breath failing, at last, the negro sought refuge in a dark alley on the 300 block of Lee Street. Two youths who had kept closest behind him disregarded danger, however, and followed. At bay, the negro turned, snatched up a piece of iron, and hurled it.

The hard object struck one of the youths on the leg and inflicted a minor wound. This, however, only increased the latter's determination to get his quarry. A brick-bat, aimed with precision at the negro's head, sufficed.

Before the negro could regain his balance he was in the firm grasp of both youths. A few more seconds and Detectives McElvain and Enzor, with a virtual mob at their backs, were upon the scene.

Within a few minutes after he had been booked at police headquarters, the negro, Elijah Thomas, had been identified as the man who, Friday night, had attempted to criminally assault another white woman at Lee and Tallapoosa Streets by forcing her away from the lights at the point of a knife.

Police were told that the woman escaped when a white man, who happened to see the affair, chased the negro away with a broom handle.

Thomas said he was 18 years old, a resident of Lowndes County, and a former CCC worker in various camps in Indiana. The negro asserted that a companion who had accompanied him here, rather than he, had attempted to snatch the pocketbook. Police, however, said they were sure that Thomas was "the right man."

"A young lady in pink", was the only identification police had last night of the intended victim.

ARMED NEGRO ATTACKS GIRL IN CEMETERY

Companion Forced To Stand By As Assault Is Committed

POLICE ORGANIZE HUNT

Attacker May Be Same Who Shot Girl's Defender In Airport Case

Every officer in the Birmingham Police Department was ordered today to join in the hunt for a short, stocky Negro who early yesterday morning assaulted a young white girl in Knesseth Israel Cemetery, near 11th-av, n, and Fourth-st.

Police were spurred in the hunt by the fact that the description of the Negro fitted that of the man who three weeks ago shot August Kokal, Rome, Ga., school-teacher, as he defended his girl companion near the Municipal Airport. Kokal is recovering.

The victim of the attack at about 1 a.m. yesterday was Miss Sue Lecroy, 18, of 1127 11th-av, n. She told police she was sitting on the wall surrounding the cemetery with William McKelvey, employed with the Alabama Ride Co., a street carnival concern.

Suddenly, the two said in their story to police, the Negro appeared with a pistol leveled at them.

Officers S. J. Gentry and C. D. Baggett, who first investigated, said the girl told them that the Negro ordered her and her "date" to go into the cemetery with him.

Here, with gravestones looming nearby, the Negro compelled McKelvey to march a few steps away and turn his back, keeping his hands in the air. Then he turned the pistol on the girl, the officers were told, and committed the assault.

Miss Lecroy was taken to Hillman Hospital immediately after police were notified of the case.

Officers could find no trace of the Negro near the attack scene, which is on the northwestern edge of the city.

Description of the Negro was given to every policeman today while Detectives J. M. Maynor and Frank Smith were assigned to work on the case exclusively.

Detectives Prove Negro's Innocence

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 27.—(AP)—Notwithstanding that a white girl identified him as her attacker, Joe Gordon, negro, was given his freedom today, as Chief of City Detectives G. C. Giles said his "check and double check" convinced him the negro was innocent.

The case brought to public attention a policy adopted by Giles—of checking innocence as well as proving guilt.

When the negro was brought in, the chief assigned two detcetives to delve into every angle that would exonerate him and two others to assemble all evidence that would tend to establish his guilt.

This procedure was used after the girl victim and her male escort, who was held at pistol point during the attack a week ago, both pointed to Gordon in a police lineup.

"We all started out feeling he was guilty," Giles said today.

But after a thorough investigation, the detective chief revealed, all four detectives—the two working against the negro as well as the two taking his case—reached one conclusion—innocent. Giles subsequently ordered Gordon's release.

Lynchings—1936

California

5446

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

TELL OF NEGRO ATTACKS

Two White Los Angeles Nurses Report Assault.

LOS ANGELES, May 17 (AP).—Two white women, both nurses, reported to police today that they had been ebducted and assaulted early today by unidentified Negroes.

Mrs. Virginia Richards, 25 years old, told Detective Lieutenants Miles Ledbetter and Harry L. Elliott that three men forced her into a automobile as she left the side entrance of an all-night market. In a garage near by they assaulted her, the officers said she told them.

At about the same early hour Mrs. Dorothy Frakes, mother of an 18-month-old baby, was abducted by two men who drove her to a house where they attacked her, the same officers reported.

One suspect, taken at this house, protested his innocence, but gave information which officers said might lead to another arrest.

Lynchings-1936
Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Georgia

5750

Georgia Negro Nearly Lynched After Aiding Group in Wreck

By Mary Mack

Daily Worker
4-18-36
New York, N.Y.

DANIELSVILLE, Ga., April 17.—A sullen, lynch-mad crowd of 150 white men, wielding crowbars and hammers, tried to smash the small two-story jail here. Their intended victim of mob violence was Lint Shaw, 54-year-old Negro and father of eleven children.

National Guardsmen on duty close by in tornado-torn Gainesville, Georgia, were rushed to the scene. Forming a cordon about the jail, they backed a truck to the entrance, obtained possession of Shaw and brought him into Atlanta for "safe keeping at Fulton Tower."

Shaw, accused of "attempting to assault a white girl," was shot a number of times by the officers, in making the arrest, and clubbed over the head. Suffering bullet wounds and an injured scalp, Shaw was in such a serious condition upon arrival in Atlanta that he had to be taken from Fulton Tower to the Grady hospital for treatment.

Sheriff Henley said Shaw was identified by "the girl he choked," a young woman in a "party of three whose motor car stalled at dusk near Colbert, Georgia."

When the writer saw Shaw for a few brief moments as he was treated for his bullet wounds in the Grady hospital, Shaw said that he lived in Colbert and when a car was wrecked near his house, he went down to see if he could be of any aid to the passengers.

When he helped one of the women out of the car, she claimed that he had hugged her. Officers arrested him and began to beat him unmercifully and needlessly. When he lashed at them in self-defense, the three officers shot him, filling him with bullet wounds.

Protests against the frame-up of this Negro worker should be immediately sent to Police Chief E. A. Elder of Colbert, Ga., where Shaw was arrested and slugged; to Sheriff T. L. Henley of Danielsville, Georgia, where Shaw was imprisoned; and to Governor Eugene Talmadge. Immediate mass action must be taken to see that the prisoner be released and not returned to the small county jail and the fury of a lynch-mad mob.

Lynchings-1936

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Georgia.

5325

CRIMINAL ATTACKS CHARGED TO NEGRO

1-1-36

COLUMBUS, Ga., Dec. 31.—(AP)—Sough for criminal attacks on three Chattahoochee county women, a negro released from the Marion county chain gang at Buena Vista Monday was tracked down with bloodhounds and arrested near here today.

The negro, who had been released after completing a 12-month sentence imposed in Muscogee (Columbus) county, was listed as H. P. Baker, 35.

Two of the women attacked are white, the other a negro.

The first woman was attacked in her home. She screamed and her husband ran from a field and the assailant fled. A negro woman servant in the home fired a shot gun at him, but he wrested the weapon from her hands and fled.

Atlanta, Ga.

The second atatck occurred a short time later. The victim told officers she was in the yard of her home, with a young baby in her arms when the negro approached. The child was torn from her arms, tossed to the ground, and the mother beaten and assaulted. She was brought to Buena Vista for treatment of her injuries.

A short time later the negro woman was attacked.

The negro was apprehended after a chase in swamps in Chattahoochee and Muscogee counties, brought to jail here and later removed to the Bibb county jail at Macon for safe keeping.

Records at the prison commission in Atlanta said Baker was sentenced for carrying a pistol without a license, and entered the penitentiary system February 14. 1935 His release before the end of the full 12 months probably was due to allowance of time off for good behavior, the commission said.

NEGRO BEING HELD IN GIRL'S ATTACK

Telegraph

Montgomery County Officers Take Robert Davis From Swamp Near Lyons

7-21-36

MT. VERNON, Ga., July 20 (AP)—Deputy Sheriff Willard Burch said tonight authorities arrested a 35-year-old Negro farm laborer booked as Robert Davis, accused of attacking a 17-year-old white girl and dropping her into an unused well today.

The Negro was arrested in a swamp near Lyons at nightfall, Burch said. He was unarmed and made no resistance.

Burch said the Negro denied any connection with the attack. which occurred last night.

After placing the prisoner in the Lyons jail, officers spirited him to another unannounced prison, Burch said, when a crowd began to form in Lyons streets.

Girl Names Attacker

"There was no actual violence," said the deputy, "just talk starting so we moved him."

The attack victim, who told officers she recognized her attacker will view the accused man when her condition permits, Burch said.

Authorities said after being attacked and thrown in the well, the girl was pelted with bricks, but managed to climb out and reported the crime at a neighbor's house.

The well was shallow, officers said.

"The man arrested is the same one the girl said was the attacker," Deputy Sheriff Burch said.

200 Men In Posse

A posse of about 200 men, half of them armed, combed the section around Lyons all day.

Sheriff Burch and Deputy Sheriff Burch and Sheriff C. W. Culpuepper and his deputies of Toombs county came on the Negro first and rushed him to the Lyons jail.

After the crowd formed at the jail, Sheriff Culpepper talked to those gathered for some time. Meanwhile, his wife and two deputties disguised the Negro in old clothes and slipped him through a storage house and into a car in the rear of the jail.

An hour after the prisoner was taken to another jail some of the crowd demanded that Sheriff Culpepper surrender the prisoner. He assured them the Nego had been spirited away and invited several men to inspect the jail. They did.

Georgia Girl Attacked, Thrown In Old Well

MOUNT VERNON, GA., July 20—(AP)—A 17-year-old white girl told the sheriff's department today a negro attacked her late last night and hurled her into an abandoned well.

Led by trail dogs, a posse at once began a widespread search for the negro.

Mrs. E. E. Burch, wife of the Montgomery County Sheriff, said the victim was badly beaten about the head by her assailant.

NEGRO IS ARRESTED ON ATTACK CHARGE

MT. VERNON, Ga., July 20.—(AP) Deputy Sheriff Willard Burch said tonight authorities arrested a 35-year-old negro farm laborer booked as Robert Davis, accused of attacking a 17-year-old white girl and dropping her into an unused well today.

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7-21-36

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"The man arrested is the same one the girl said was the attacker," Deputy Sheriff Burch said.

Man Wanted for Assault Is Captured by Negroes

Telegraph

Turpentine Hand Charged With Criminal Attack Upon Young White Woman

11-12-36

Macon, Ga.

TIFTON, Ga,, Nov. 11 (AP).—he story of the capture of two Negroes of another Negro wanted by officers following a reported criminal attack on a young white woman near Kibbee, in Montgomery county, was related here today.

The accused man had disappeared from a turpentine camp where his two captors—father and son—were employes. Officials asked the men to look out for the fugitive.

A few days later, the son saw the accused man at another camp, informed the white woodsman in charge, and sent for his father. The fugitive attacked the woodsman and disarmed him. One of his captors overpowered him and turned him over to officers.

A. Corbitt, of Willaceoochee, employer of the man's captors, said the father and son had worked for him many years. Corbitt said the captured man denied attacking the girl.

The Tifton Gazette said it was informed that another Negro, also wanted for an alleged attack on the same girl, was arrested and taken to jail in Augusta.

Detectives Shoot, Kill Man Believed To Have Attacked Young Woman Wednesday

Shot late Wednesday night by Detectives Roper and Sexton, John Robinson, who gave his address as being 1521 Mayson Avenue, succumbed at Grady hospital at 5:31 p. m. Thursday evening from a gunshot wound in his chest.

122

According to police reports the deceased man was accused of having attempted to assault an eighteen year old white girl in the Kirkwood section.

World

Following the alleged assault, Detectives Roper and Sexton located the suspect in an establishment known as "Blue Heaven" on Mayson Avenue. When questioned, suspect is said to have attempted to escape, whereupon he was fired on.

12-25-36

The body of the deceased man is still being held in the city morgue, pending the location of relatives, as the above mentioned address could not be found.

Atlanta, Ga.

L. J. Barksdale, an eight year old lad, of 91 London Lane was rushed to Grady hospital where he was found to have been suffering with stab wounds in his back and face.

According to police records, the tiny tot was stabbed by another lad named Morgan Brown, age nine, of 185 London Lane, following an alleged argument over a marble game.

The condition of Mrs. Rose Allen of an Ashby Street address, who was accidentally shot by her three year old son, Arthur Allen, Jr., early Tuesday morning, is reported to be slightly improved by hospital attaches. However, it is still feared that the young woman might lose the sight of one eye.

Lynchings-1936

Illinois

Rape: Alleged attack by Nergoes

5447

5447

NEGRO CONFESSES CHICAGO MURDER

Gambler Admits Beating Mrs. Trammel to Death in Her Hotel Room

CHICAGO, Aug. 18 (AP)—Capt. Daniel Gilbert of the state's attorney's police announced tonight that Rufo Swain, alias James Gray, a Negro gambler, had confessed the slaying of Mrs. Mary Louise Trammell, 24, in her hotel room Sunday.

Capt. Gilbert, with Swain and several other officers, left immediately for the State Street hotel in which Mrs. Trammell's nude and beaten body was found to re-enact the crime.

Swain was quoted as saying he took Mrs. Trammell's life when she resisted his attempt to rob her. Further details of the confession were not made known immediately.

Capt. Gilbert said Swain admitted the killing shortly after he was subjected to a series of questions and was caught in several contradictions.

Swain voluntarily surrendered for interrogation after he said he read in newspapers he was wanted in connection with the slaying of the former Knoxville, Tenn., stenographer.

Lieut. Charles Egan of the state's attorney's police and Assistant State's Attorney Morris Meyers partificated in the questioning of Swain and reported they had "caught him in several lies" concerning the loss of a black note book and laundry ticket, the finding of which on the fire escape of the hotel led investigators on his trail.

Lynchings-1936
Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Kentucky

5448

MAN ARRESTED FOR RAPE IN PADUCAH, KY.

Defender

Hint White Girl Was Responsible

4-18-36

PADUCAH, Ky., April 17—Ominous forebodings of lynch terror and mob violence shook the quiet little town of Paducah last week when George Chambers, a 35-year-old Race man, was arrested on a warrant issued by County Judge Brady M. Stewart, charging "intimacy" with a 17-year-old white girl.

Fearing mob violence local authorities spirited Chambers out of Paducah shortly after his arrest. He was an employee in a cleaning and dyeing firm here.

It was learned that after the arrest, a number of city and county officials met in an office at the courthouse and agreed not to give out any information concerning the case.

The girl, Kathleen Tanner, who last year was graduated from Lovelaceville Junior high school, was placed in the McCracken county jail. A warrant against her stated that she is being held on a charge of "delinquency." The girl told county authorities that she had been staying for the past year with an aunt who resides in Paducah.

It was intimated that the girl's aunt had "contributed to her delinquency." One county official, like many others who did not wish to be quoted, declared: "You would be suprised; she has prominent relatives." Chambers is reputed to have a fine reputation and many citizens believe that the girl was largely responsible for the alleged "intimacy."

When his employer heard of his arrest, he came to the courthouse and inquired as to the man's bond. It was set at $10,000 and was not executed.

The case will be presented Monday when the April grand jury convenes. County officials were reluctant to discuss the particulars of the case.

Two Shot Down After Threatening Notes Are Sent Ky. White Woman

Had Charged Negro With Having Attempted To Pour Some Poison Down Her Throat; Grand Jury Fails To Act, Despite Woman's Accusation

ELKTON, Ky. (ANP)—Racial friction flared here last week following the receipt of threatening letters by a white woman who had accused a Negro of attacking her, and the shooting down of two fleeing Negroes by a mob.

The letters threatened Mrs. John Johnson unless she obtained release of Frank McClain whom she identified as the man who dragged her from her home some weeks ago and poured poison down her throat. The fourth note told her, "You have one day to live." A mob of white men investigated the threats and went to the home of Harvey and George Hill, two brothers who fled when the white men approached. They were shot down.

Sheriff Omar Crouch, who has marshalled deputies to keep down interracial feeling, said he doubted the Hills were implicated, but kept them under observation at the county poor farm where they were treated.

The grand jury failed to indict McClain at its recent session despite Mrs. Johnson's positive identification, but advised holding him in jail until the winter term of court pending further investigation. He has been carried away to safety.

Officers said the woman, who has been guarded since the threats, met several Negroes in the woods before the poison incident and fired on them with a rifle.

Lynchings-1936
Rape; Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Mississippi.

5449

JACKSON, MISS.
NEWS

JUN 27 1936

AN INCIDENT OF THE DAY

Down at Waynesboro, this state, a negro farm hand insulted a 17-year-old white girl—made to her an indecent proposal.

Father of the girl killed the negro.

Then he went to the sheriff's office, surrendered, turned over the gun, and told why he did it.

A coroner's jury was summoned.

Verdict returned said: "Justifiable homicide."

Tell that to the American Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Yes, tell it to some well-meaning but very silly Southern women who have been organizing societies down here in Dixie to protest against lynchings—long and windy resolutions written on the subject that newspaper men toss into waste baskets.

Such societies would not exist if not financed by people who know nothing whatever about our problems down here in the Deep South—a bunch of hirelings who run around with their tongues hanging out making speeches.

Down here in the Deep South, despite the many troubles that beset us, we try to protect our women.

Lynchings-1936
Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

New Jersey

5450

N. J. Mob Abandons Man-hunt When White Woman Accuser Reneges On Her Original Charge

Journal and Guide Bur

BRIDGETOWN, N. J.—Mrs. Virginia Hymer, 38, white, by telling police Paul Dinkins, former farm hand, had tried to assault her when she would not give him food, caused a mob to gather and search the woods for the fleeing youth Thursday. The mob, led by Elder John Hacker, Hopewell township constable, who had sworn out a warrant for Dinkins, ordered his volunteer posse to "shoot to kill."

But when William Hymer, her husband, investigated the matter he found that Dinkins called at their house, became angry when refused food and in leaving the house simply brushed by the excited white woman. This action led her to make the assault report. Learning the truth, the posse disbanded but not before they had called at Dinkins home and found he had vanished.

When Dinkins was found he was only faced with a disorderly conduct charge.

Lynchings-1936
Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

New York.

5451

Assaclt on Girl Charged to Negro

NEW YORK, Nov. 22. (AP)—A Negro whom police protected from an infuriated mob that had hunted him in cellars, backyards, and alleys was booked today as Howard White, 28, and charged with criminal assault upon an [illegible]-year-old white girl and attempted assault upon a 12-year-old girl in Brooklyn.

Detectives overtook White in Bedford avenue as a crowd of men swarmed an intersection and surged against a hastily-formed cordon of patrolmen, crying "lynch him," and "turn him over to us."

Lynchings-1936
Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

North Carolina

5452

5452

BELLBOY HELD AS SLAYER OF GIRL STUDENT

Negro Hotel Employe Is Charged With Brutal Attack, Murder

BLOODY SHIRT IS FOUND

Inquest, However, Fails To Name Killer; Story Of Stranger Discounted

By United Press.

ASHEVILLE, N. C., July 18.—Police today accused a terrified Negro bellboy arrested secretly late last night of the assault and murder of blond Helen Clevenger, 19-year-old New York University honor student.

The Negro, who worked in the hotel where Miss Clevenger was attacked, slain and mutilated Thursday morning, was arrested shortly before midnight.

Police Capt. T. C. Robinson said detectives found a blood stained shirt in his home. State chemists began an examination of it immediately to determine whether the blood was human and, if so, whether it was, of the same type as that of Miss Clevenger.

Was Off Duty

Through more than four hours of intensive questioning, the Negro denied knowledge of the crime, but he was locked up in Asheville's mob proof jail atop the 13-story Courthouse for further interrogation at 7 a.m. Police threw a heavy guard around the jail.

The man's name is Joe Urey. He is large, athletically built, more than normally black. He wears spectacles but, his fellow employes said, has Beau Brummel aspirations. He keeps a pointed mustache well waxed and meticulously trimmed.

He went off duty at midnight Wednesday, approximately an hour before Miss Clevenger was killed.

All evidence police had made public before Urey was seized pointed to a "mystery man" as the criminal, a casual intruder into the hotel in which the bellboy worked and where Miss Clevenger was criminally attacked, mutilated and killed.

Routine Verdict

Miss Clevenger presumably knew no one in Asheville except her uncle, Prof. W. L. Clevenger of the State Agricultural College at Raleigh. Two persons testified at a coroner's inquest yesterday that they saw an unidentified man at the door of Miss Clevenger's room and fleeing through the hotel lobby a' about the time she was killed.

The coroner's jury, after hearing 15 witnesses, returned the routine verdict: Death at the hands of a person or persons unknown.

Professor Clevenger slept in a room just around a corridor corner from that of his niece. Although the inquest fixed the time of her death at between 1 and 1:40 a.m., while she still sat up completing an entry in her diary, he said he heard no disturbance and had no premonition of tragedy until he went to rouse her Thursday morning.

Had Been Attacked

"We had retired at 10:30," he testified at the inquest. "I went directlp to bed and awoke at 7:30 the next morning. After I dressed and shaved I went to her room and knocked."

"There was no answer, although I knocked again and again. Finally I rattled the knob and the door swung open. I saw her body lying half out of the bathroom."

The girl had been criminally attacked, an official medical examination proved. The pajamas she had donned before sitting down at a desk to work on her diary were ripped down one shoulder. She had been shot above her right breast with a small pistol of a caliber unusual in America, and stabbed and slashed on her face with a knife or scissors. One blow had broken her nose.

'Inside Job'

Captain Robinson refused to say what evidence, if any, he had to implicate Urey.

The police were convinced, he said, that only a man well acquainted with the building—and probably with its guests of the night—would or could have gone to Miss Clevenger's room and escaped safely after her screams had raised an alarm.

NEGRO ADMITS FIRING SHOTS ON WHITE MEN

Surrenders To Deputies At Farm Home; Two Of Three Victims Critical

COMPANION IS SOUGHT

Would-Be Kidnaper Of Baby Boy Is Still At Large; Troops Guard Roads

By Clyde Cruse
Post Staff Writer

ANNISTON, Aug. 12.—With one Negro in Jefferson County Jail for the shooting of three white possemen, deputy sheriffs and State Highway patrolmen this morning started searching all Negro homes in the vicinity of Lloyd's Chapel for clothes of a Negro who attempted to kidnap a two-month-old white baby boy Monday night.

Mrs. Ullman L. Williamson, the baby's mother, was unable to furnish officers an accurate description of the Negro whom she surprised clutching her child, but provided details of the kind of clothing he was wearing.

The Negro, she told the officers, wore a dark felt hat, dark shirt and a pair of light, checked trousers with a patch in the seat.

Jailed In Birmingham

Art Bush, 40-year-old Negro, last night surrendered to deputies headed by Chief Deputy Norman L. Summers at the home of R. B. Cates, white farmer. He was taken at once to the jail in Birmingham.

Cates' home is about a mile from the scene where the white possemen, hunting for the would-be baby kidnaper, were shot Monday night. Bush admitted firing the shots, deputies said.

Condition of Pat Hicks, shot in the abdomen and arm, and Forney Martin, suffering from a shotgun charge in the face, was reported as stil' critical today. J. A. Hicks, brother of Pat Hicks, sustained a shotgun wound in the knee.

Fifty National Guardsmen, under Maj. Ben Smith, of Birmingham, are stationed at Jacksonville, 11 miles from Anniston, prepared for any eventuality which may arise at Anniston.

Surrenders Peacefully

Bush's surrender was accomplished peacefully, as result of a well-laid plan by deputy sheriffs to avoid any bloodshed. The Negro made known to Cates, the white farmer, that he wanted to surrender early last night, and officers went to the farmer's home shortly thereafter.

Ullman L. Williamson, father of the two-month-old baby boy, protested to deputies that State Highway patrolmen had disarmed himself, J. L. Suits, Howard Pruett, grandfather of the baby; Louis Haynie and P. E. Pruett, members of the posse.

Racial disorders here started several weeks ago after distribution of a Negro paper printed at Pittsburgh, Pa. A Negro preacher named Ward was arrested and fined $50 for selling the papers without a license. He paid the fine.

The Williamson baby received slight scratches on the face as he rolled from the Negro's arms, Mrs. Williamson said.

Barn Is Burned

Circuit Judge R. B. Carr said highway patrolmen told him oil had been splashed against Bush's home in an apparent attempt to ignite it. A barn near Bush's home was set afire yesterday afternoon. It burned to the ground.

The Negro's wife, Mary Bush, stated members of the posse yesterday threatened to tie a chain about her neck unless she revealed her husband's hiding place.

Co-Ed's Murder Is Confessed By Negro Hall Boy

Employe Of Hotel Gives Up Bloodstained Pistol With Girl's Hair On It

Robbery Motive

Slayer Says He Battered Miss Clevenger's Head To Stop Her Screams

ASHEVILLE, N. C., Aug. 9.—(AP)—The mysterious hotel room murder of 18-year-old Helen Clevenger, young vacationing co-ed, was solved today, Sheriff Laurence E. Brown said, with the arrest and confession of Martin Moore, 22, a negro hall boy.

Moore, after an all night questioning, made a signed statement that he crept into the girl's room at the fashionable Battery Park hotel the night of July 15, bent upon robbery, and slew her when she cried out and he became panicky.

The negro youth said he did not expect to find the New York University student in her room, since the door was unlocked, "but when I got in there she screamed, and that's why I shot her."

"She screamed some more," he added, "and started to run out. I struck her with the gun. When she fell on the floor I struck her several times more to stop her screaming, as I was scared and did not want to be caught."

Moore denied he made any attempt to ravish the girl, although a physician whose name was not disclosed, said there appeared to be some evidence of an attempted assault.

The arrest and confession of the hotel employe ended a three weeks' investigation of a crime which had baffled authorities at every turn and led to the detention and subsequent release of eight persons.

Everybody Else Released

The last of these was released this afternoon after Moore's confession. He was Daniel H. Gaddy, 28-year-old hotel night watchman, who had been detained for questioning almost since the crime.

Previously Sheriff Brown, the chief investigator of the murder, had regarded Gaddy as the "key man to the whole mystery" and said that "when Gaddy gets ready to talk, we'll break this case wide open." Today he released the night watchman and said he was "completely exonerated."

The green pajama-clad body of the honor student of New York University was found in her second floor room about 8 a.m., July 16, by her uncle, Prof. W. L. Clevenger, of N. C. State College, with whom she was traveling.

A bullet had pierced her heart and lodged in her back and her face had been mutilated by a severe battering with some heavy instrument. Her legs were thrown under her body, and officers said the position indicated the Staten Island, N. Y., girl was on her knees pleading for her life when she was slain.

Moore, the sheriff said, was arrested last night on the tip of Banks Taylor, negro pantry boy at the hotel, who had been secretly detained Thursday night for questioning. Moore, the sheriff said, finally confessed.

Although many mysterious clues turned

up Sheriff Brown said it was the pantry boy's tip and the bullet taken from the girl's body that made possible a solution.

Brown said Taylor told him that the hall boy recently had come into possession of a pistol. Then the sheriff took Taylor to Moore's home and confronted him with the story. Moore, he said, at first denied owning the pistol, but later admitted it.

He said Moore led him to a niche beneath some plumbing under his home where he had hidden the weapon. The pistol, the sheriff said, was a heavy .32 caliber Spanish 8-shot automatic, fully loaded.

Gun Butt Bloodstained

The butt of the gun—with which Moore in his purported confession said he bashed the girl's face—was stained with blood and blonde hairs clung to it. The balls in the cartridges, he said, matched the one removed from the girl's body.

The time of the murder was fixed at 1 a.m., the morning of July 16 when several guests at the hotel heard a woman's screams over a terrific thunderstorm.

The crime, however, was not discovered until seven hours later when Prof. Clevenger went to his niece's room to call her to breakfast.

Among the first persons to be detained in the investigation was Mark Wollner, 35-year-old radio and concert violinist, whose studio is across the street from the resort hotel. He was released after several days' detention.

Prof. Clevenger, 54-year-old dairy specialist, whose work takes him on frequent tours of the State, was taken into custody upon his return from his niece's funeral in Ohio. He was released after questioning.

The others who were detained and subsequently released were 19-year-old Mildred Ward, Wollner's sweetheart, who substantiated his alibi, and several employes of the hotel.

Text of Confession

The text of Moore's confession, as announced by Sheriff Brown, follows:

"My name is Martin Moore. I am 22 years old. I live at 84 1-2 Hill Street. I am employed as a hall man at the Battery Park Hotel.

"I finished my work at 5 p.m. on July 15, 1936, and left for home. I sneaked back into the hotel the same night through the back door about 9 p.m. and I hid downstairs in my locker.

"About 12:45 a.m. on July 16, I went up the back stairway to the second floor and went to Room 224.

"I opened the door. the room was not locked. When I entered the room the girl was on the bed. I walked in. She screamed. Then I shot her.

"She still kept screaming and I hit her with the gun in the face three or four times until she stopped screaming.

"When I shot her she jumped up and started to run out. I then hit her with the gun. She fell on the floor almost near the bathroom.

"When she fell I don't know what position she fell. It was dark. The bed light was lit when I went in.

"She kept screaming and I hit her a couple of times when she was lying on the floor.

"I unscrewed the shade and the bulb from the socket and placed it somewhere and came out. As I was about to leave the room some man standing in the doorway, said: 'What was the scream?' and I said to the man: 'It's what I was wondering.'

"I then closed the door and went down the front steps to the mezzanine floor and down the mezzanine to the ballroom.

"I passed through a heavy door and screen door, reached the porch, climbed on the bannister, stepped down half way and jumped.

"Then I ran to my right on a street west of the hotel to Montford Street and started walking on Hill Street. I hung around on Hill Street until time to go back to work. I saw no one around Hill Street.

"I went back to work at 4 a.m. I still had the gun on me when I went back to work.

"I worked until 10 minutes to 5. I then went home and went to sleep.

Hid His Gun

"I brought the gun back home with me this time and put it under the toilet beam. That is the same place where Deputy Sheriff Tom Brown with other officers, and Banks Taylor found it after I had told them where I had hid it. I carried you all to it.

"I saw this girl when she came in and I then saw her come out of her room and went around the corner to her right.

"I don't know where she went to. When I sneaked back into the hotel through the back door I had the same 32 automatic that you have, down front of my trousers, at 12:45 a.m., July 16 and went to the second floor to sneak into the rooms to look for money.

"I tried the doors on Rooms 218 and 219. They would not open. The next room I tried was Room 224. I believed the young girl was in bed. I tried the door, it opened, was not locked. I did not steal anything from this girl's room.

"I got scared. I figured she was not in the room. My reason was that I found the door unlocked, but when I got in she was there and she screamed. That's why I shot her.

"She screamed some more and started to run out. It was then I struck her with the gun. When she fell on the floor I struck her several times to stop her screaming, as I was scared and did not want to be caught."

At this point he was questioned by Sheriff Brown as follows:

"When did you unscrew the shade and the bulb?"

The negro continued:

"Then I shot her and knocked her down once. I then unscrewed the light and took the whole thing off.

"When I entered the room she said 'What do you want?'

"I told her I opened the door. I did not know she was in there. I looked at her and she said, 'I am going to scream.' I told her not to.

Screamed Once

"So she screamed once. I closed the door. She said, 'You'd better get out of here or I'll call the office.'

"I was standing close to her and I shot her before she could go back and I hit her with the butt. She fell on her knees. She screamed again and I hit her again.

"She screamed again and I hit her twice. I had on a raincoat, a black sleeveless sweater. I don't know what shirt or trousers. I wore a brown cap. The brown cap you showed me, I wore.

"I made this statement of my own free will and accord and without promise or threat of any kind whatsoever. I have read the foregoing statement and it is true."

BRUTAL CRIME IS RE-ENACTED FOR OFFICERS

Telegraph

10-8-36

Negro Admits Murder of Helen Clevenger After All-Night Grilling

Macon Ga.

ROBBERY GIVEN AS MOTIVE

Park Hotel Employe's Pistol Found Stained With Blood Under House

ASHEVILLE, N. C., Aug. 9 (AP) The mysterious hotel room murder of 18-year-old Helen Clevenger, young vacationing co-ed, was solved today, Sheriff Laurence E. Brown said, with the arrest and confession of Martin Moore, 22, a Negro hall boy.

Moore, after an all night questioning, made a signed statement that he crept into the girl's room at the fashionable Battery Park hotel the night of July 15, bent upon robbery, and slew her when she cried out and he became panicky.

The Negro youth said he did not expect to find the New York university student in her room, since the door was unlocked, "but when I got in there she screamed, and that's why I shot her."

"She screamed some more," he added, "and started to run out. I struck her with the gun. When she fell on the floor I struck her several times more to stop her screaming, as I was scared and did not want to be caught."

Denies Assault Attempt

Moore denied he made any attempt to ravish the girl. The question of whether she was assaulted was never definitely determined. At first the undertaker, the coroner and a physician said she was, but later three physicians who examined the body were unable to decide.

The arrest and confession of the hotel employe ended a three weeks' investigation of a crime which had baffled authorities at every turn and led to the detention and subsequent release of eight persons.

The last of these was released this afternoon after Moore's confession. He was Daniel H. Gaddy, 28-year-old hotel night watchman, who had been detained for questioning almost since the crime.

Charged With Murder

The Negro was formally charged with murder, Sheriff Brown said, and it was not decided immediately whether a special term of court would be called as the regular session meets toward the end of the month.

The sheriff said the Negro was arrested last night on the tip of Banks Taylor, Negro pantry boy at the hotel, who was secretly detained last Thursday night for questioning.

Brown said Taylor told him Moore had recently come into possession of a pistol, which he said Moore had told him about. The sheriff said he then took Taylor to Moore's home where he was confronted with the statement regarding the pistol.

Denied Crime at First

Moore, at first, he said, denied it but finally said he had the pistol and led the sheriff to its hiding place beneath some plumbing under his house. The sheriff said the pistol butt was stained with blood and blonde hairs clung to it. He said the balls in the cartridges were identical with that taken from the body of the pretty honor student.

Miss Clevenger, who recently had come to North Carolina from her Staten Island home, was visiting in company with her uncle, Prof. W. L. Clevenger of North Carolina State college at Raleigh.

Her green pajama-clad body was found sprawled on the floor of her hotel room about 8 a. m. July 16, by her uncle who called by for her. A bullet had pierced her heart and lodged in her back and her face was mutilated from a severe beating.

GUILT IS DENIED IN MURDER TRIAL

Martin Moore Enters Plea in Helen Clevenger Slaying Case at Asheville

ASHEVILLE, N. C., Aug. 17 (AP)—Martin Moore, 19-year-old Negro, pleaded innocent upon arraignment today in Buncombe superior court to an indictment charging him with the murder a month ago of Helen Clevenger, New York university student.

"I am not guilty," the six-foot three-inch hotel hallboy replied, when Solicitor Zeb V. Nettles read the indictment.

"How will you be tried?" Nettles queried.

"By God and my country," the Negro answered in the legal ritual upon prompting of defense attorneys.

"May God grant you true deliverence," the solicitor concluded.

Judge Donald Phillips set the trial for Wednesday morning and ordered a special venire drawn.

The Negro who confessed, Sheriff Laurence Brown said, to slaying the pretty blonde student, in her hotel room here, was arraigned only on the murder charge, although the grand jury returned two true bills. One charged murder, the other first degree burglary. Both are capital crimes.

8-18-36

J. Scroop Styles and Thomas A. Jones, Jr., defense attorneys, said they probably would have "several motions" to make before the taking of testimony begins.

Lynchings - 1936
Rape by Whites.

Alabama

5453

White Man Sought In Huntsville Attack

Advertiser
10-30-36
Montgomery, Ala.

HUNTSVILLE, ALA., Oct. 29.—(AP)—Chief I. D. Hyde, of the Guntersville police force, said today a search is being made for a white man who is alleged to have assaulted a middle-aged widow mother of several children, near Guntersville yesterday afternoon.

Chief Hyde said the attack is alleged to have occurred near the foot of Sand Mountain a short distance from the town.

He said the victim was Mrs. Ada Lee Embry, about 35 or 40, and the mother of three or four children.

Mrs. Embry, according to the officer, was walking toward Guntersville when she was approached by a white man who, the chief said, he was told, pulled a gun and forced her to turn back to a bridge where the assault is alleged to have taken place.

After the assault, Chief Hyde said, the man caught a ride in a car and made his escape.

He was described as a cripple, walking with a limp in his right leg and weighing about 135 or 140 pounds.

Mrs. Embry, the officer said, is a "rather attractive blond and a woman of good character."

Louisiana.

Lynchings-1936
Rape by Whites.

5454

Louisiana Sheriff Arrests Five Whites On Assault Charge

Courier 11-14-36

Held After They Had Broken Into Home and Beaten Up Farmer and His Son.

RUSTON, La., Nov. 12—(ANP)—Sheriff Thigpen, of Lincoln Parish, last week arrested five white men on the charge of breaking and entering the home of Acy Bonner, and his son, Ellis Bonner, and with shooting with intent to kill. The whites Merrill, [illegible] Pesnell and Jack Lamond.

Pittsburgh Pa.

The shooting, according to reports, followed the vigorous objection of the Bonners to the Pesnell poisoning their fish pond for the purpose of bringing the fish to the surface. The pond was on the Bonners' property and their livestock drank from the pond, but despite this, the Pesnells insisted on poisoning it.

According to the Bonners, the white men came to their home that night, broke down the door, and opened fire on the son, Ellis. Then, when the farmer went to the aid of his son, whom they were beating, they fired on him, wounding him in the arm. Both father and son were taken to the hospital for treatment and the county officials notified. The arrests followed.

Lynchings—1936
Rape by Whites.

Nebraska

5455

WHITE MAN, 74 FREED IN ASSAULT

OMAHA. Nebraska, June 12—(By R. C. Price or ANP)—After lagging n court for almost a year, the case of Horace Jones, a 74-year old white man accused of a criminal assault on an [illegible]-year-old colored girl, came up for trial Tuesday before District Judge John W. Yeager.

It was alleged the deed occurred on June 25, 1935. An alibi was offered by the defense that Jones had gone to the polls to vote at the time of the alleged assault. The jury returned its verdict of "Not Guilty" on Wednesday.

The case had attracted considerable interest here and the verdict came as a surprise to Omahans because it was contended by the prosecution the county attorney's office had shown plainly that Jones was guilty of the crime. The verdict, they declare, shows the whites here lieve no one can be guilty of rape but a Negro. Following the alleged assault the child had been examined by Dr. Wesley Jones, who reported that attack had taken place and that the child had been mistreated.

Lynchings-1936
6
Rape by Whites.

Oklahoma

5456

15 YEARS FOR ASSAULTING YOUNG CHILD

White Man Who Attacked 14-Year-Old Girl to Prison

TULSA. —(Special)— Fifteen years at hard labor in the state penitentiary at McAlester was the penalty assessed Lawrence Winn, 41, white, charged with criminal assault on a 14-year-old Negro girl at Sand Springs.

Winn was found guilty Saturday, January 25, by a jury which was out only 10 minutes. The jury named the penalty which was the maximum punishment allowed by law for second degree rape.

The child, a student in the Sand Springs high school, was accosted by Winn as she left school on December 18, when classes were dismissed for the Christmas holidays.

Seeks to Employ Her

Winn, saying his name was Jack Wright, asked the girl whether she wanted a job, offering to pay her well to stay at his home and care for his sick wife while he was away during the day. The girl agreed to take the job provided he asked her parents first.

Winn drove the girl to her home and related his story to her mother who seeing no harm in letting her daughter make a little Christmas money, consented for the girl to work and asked Winn to see that the child was brought home safely at night. This Winn agreed to do.

The girl got into the waiting automobile and rode away only to be found several hours later on the highway trying to make her way home, criminally assaulted by the man whose name was later found to be Lawrence Winn, who lives near Wekiowa, Okla., a small town a few miles northwest of Sand Springs.

According to the child's story, Winn took the girl into his car and proceeded to drive in the wrong direction. He told the girl that was the quickest way home. He took her out into a wooded section a few miles from town and at the point of a gun, criminally assaulted the child.

Winn Is Arrested

When she got back home, after being assisted by a passing motorist, she told her father and mother what had happened. Her father told the story to the police officers and Winn's arrest followed. He denied knowing anything about it at first but it was proven conclusively that he was the same man, who drove the girl to her home to get the consent of her parents.

Winn was represented by Attorney Tom Wiley. His only defense was an alibi. Winn has served time in the penitentiary for robbery and two charges of burglary. He was prosecuted by W. F. (Dixie) Gilmer the fighting assistant county attorney and Attorney T. Hall, who was employed by the citizens of Sand Springs to assist in the prosecution.

The jury was out only 10 minutes and returned a verdict assessing punishment of 15 years, which was the maximum punishment allowed by law for second degree rape.

Winn is married and has one child 9 years of age, who lives with him on a little farm near Wekiowa.

SIX-YEAR-OLD NEGRO GIRL IS RAPED BY WHITE FIEND: HELD IN COUNTY JAIL AT OKMULGEE

Black Dispatch
3-21-36

COUNTY OFFICIALS LAX IN CITY WHERE JESS HOLLINS GOT LIFE SENTENCE

Officers Catch Man In Criminal Act

OKMULGEE, Okla., Mar. 16.—This city was thrown into a furor o fexcitement this week following the report that M. T. Kitchen, white, had spirited away a little six-year-old Negro girl and had raped her. Kitchen is now in jail, although he enjoyed a few hours of freedom on a $5,000 bond, later attacked as being worthless.

Just having concluded the trial of Jess Hollins, charged with committing the crime of rape upon a white girl, Alta Pinnion, and in which Hollins, Negro youth, was given a life term in the penitentiary, the whites of this county are showing a calloused attitude towards the prosecution of Kitchen. Many people feel that he is going to finally be given his freedom.

Kitchen, 40 years old, and an oil field worker, is alleged to have seized Nellie Mae Herndan, who lives in the 1100 block of North Sioux avenue, near the Attucks school, yesterday between noon and 1 p. m. and pulled her into his car.

iKtchen drove to a spot east of the Country club, tore off the child's clothing and attempted to ravish her, members of the sheriff's force said.

Deputy Sheriffs Tom Berry and Ellis Holley reported they found the two there about 20 minutes after she was seized, and arrested Kitchen.

Negroes who had witnessed the alleged abduction, notified officers and Berry and Holley, after visiting the scene, traced the car south on Choctaw avenue.

Acting on a hunch they drove into the Country club park and on one of the by-ways of the wooded tract they found iKtchen's car, they said. iKtchen was drinking but was not intoxicated, the officers added. 3-21-36

He was brought to the county jail here and charges of attempted rape were filed. The complaint was signed Vianna Herndon as next friend of the child.

Kitchen lives in the southwest part of the city. Oklahoma City

The girl, when examined by Dr. J. E. Guess, and specimens taken from her organs delivered to the city chemist, Dr. Isham, was shown to have had male organisms or germs introduced into her private organs. The hymen had not been lacerated by the penetration.

With this information the charge of attempt rape was dropped by the county attorney's office and a charge of rape later filed. The defendant is represented by Joe Eaton and Floyd Wheeler, while the little Negro girl is represented by Attorney Joe Evans, and funds are being raised to prosecute iKtchen by the City Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

It was later shown by Evans and others that the bond upon which Kitchen was released was worthless, as the signer did not own the property. Judge O'Bannion had not O. K.'ed the bond since the new charges have been filed and the man is still in jail.

Outraging Public Decency

Black Dispatch
3-26-36
Oklahoma City

Prejudice is a terrible thing. It throws the wheels of justice completely out of gear and makes men who are ordinarily fair do such queer things. Twice, during our public experience we have seen hypocrisy leap into the courtroom and seize the machinery of law enforcement in a way that seems almost unbelievable.

We recall several years ago when Dr. A. P. Bethel and this writer went to the county jail and made bond for a poor colored woman who had shot at a white man and slightly grazed his forehead with a bullet. The woman had been in jail all day and so far as we know would still be there had we not seen a small item in the evening paper saying that this woman had shot a white man in the northern part of the city, but without giving any facts as to the cause of the difficulty.

Down at the jail when interviewed we discovered that the poor woman on the morning in question had permitted her 14-year-old daughter to accept a job offered by the white man whom she attempted to shoot. The man in question alleged he wanted a girl to nurse his baby, but when the little Negro girl arrived at his home he immediately yanked her into a room and attempted to assault her.

We made bond for that poor, helpless black woman and spent several days in court with a lawyer employed to defend her against a man who had attempted to rape her daughter, and we were exasperated to know that the county attorney's office would not allow the woman to file an information against the would-be rapist. The county officials said that was "cross-filing," a practice not countenanced by the courts.

To make a long story short, that woman would probably have been convicted and given a long sentence had it not been for the white child of a white brute. The attempt rapist brought his child into court, having schooled the little innocent kid as to what to say in testifying for him. The little fellow went to sleep, and when suddenly awakened and placed on the state, forgot all of the coaching and told the truth. Before the astonished court he told a story of how the white man, his father, threw the little girl on the bed, the struggle, and the action of his parent regarding the little girl's clothing.

Judges have vast discretionary powers. It would have been right then and there for the judge who sat in that case to dismiss the action, but in order to uphold an unholy something mis-named "white supremacy," the judge permitted a conviction to obtain and then suspended the sentence. God! What a conscience! It must have been made of marble.

The above narrative relates to a trial in the courts of Oklahoma county fifteen years ago. One might assume that since that date we have made progress. One might say, "Nothing like that could happen now." Let us see.

March 13, two Negro boys discovered a Negro high school girl entering a business establishment after midnight, that was at that time operated by a white man in the Negro section on East Fourth street. They suspicioned, and rightly so, the motive behind such conduct, so they waited outside the establishment to arrest the girl when she emerged from the rendezvous.

Perhaps they were wrong in their technique. Perhaps they should have at the outset called the law enforcing agencies. They did, however, show that they considered themselves conforming to the law, because as soon as they had made civilian arrests they called police scout cars and went to the station and filed informations against the pair.

There was at least nothing in their conduct which would purport to show that they were avoiding legal processes. They did what perhaps one thousand white men would not have done under similar circumstances. They delivered both of their prisoners into the arms of the law alive.

Now what happened? That's the important thing. One would assume that the county attorney's office which makes such a bug-bear about "outraging public decency" when Negroes are caught with white women, would have been on the alert to defend and protect the defenders of public morals even though their faces were black.

Lo and behold! In this case we discovered that "cross-filing" is in order down at the county courthouse. When the white man's case was called for trial in the police court it had to be dismissed because his accusers did not appear against him. It is the rule in all such cases in the police court to dismiss an action if the complaining witness does not think enough to appear, and the usual procedure is to go out and pick up the complaining witness on a contempt charge.

It would be interesting to know, however, why the complaining witnesses were absent. They failed to appear because they were in jail. The white man whom they had arrested had been able to convince the county attorney's office that the Negroes were the ones due in jail, and that they should be charged with an offense under the statutes.

In the justice court of Leo B. White a few days later one found this ugly situation. Two Negro boys were being prosecuted by the county attorney's office on an information signed by the individuals they had apprehended and turned over to the law enforcing agencies a few hours before.

Think of it! We stated in an opening paragraph that prejudice is a terrible thing. Here was the assistant county atorney of Oklahoma county busy for half a day digging into and attempting to besmirch before a jury of white men the characters and reputations of two Negro youths whose only obvious crime was vested in the fact that they held a white man while others phoned for officers of the law.

Think of it! Here was an assistant county attorney who fought for an hour to prevent a Negro girl from testifying after the same girl had been importuned by the county attorney's office to appear as a witness against the two Negro youths.

Think of it! To convict two Negroes who were guilty of holding a white man caught with a Negro girl in a darkened room after midnight, the assistant county attorney attempts to intimidate the Negro girl with threats of prosecution; sends to the courthouse and secures a purporter information filed against her, and then refuses to identify the document when placed on the stand and sworn. Did you ever hear of such circumlution to evade the truth?

With all of this sort of jockeying of facts, the nearest a white jury could approach to justice was a $5 fine. The court had told the jury that this was the lightest penalty they could assess. The fact that in a southern court the lightest penalty was assessed warrants the belief that the jury believed the Negroes and considered the other testimony false.

We say this because we know that no six white men, if they believed the statement of the accused white man, which was to the effect that he was making a legitimate sale to the little girl; that he was unlawfully seized by two Negroes in the early hours of the morning in his underwear—would have stopped at anything less than the extreme penalty, which would have been 30 days in pail and a $100 fine.

The white jury, after hearing the evidence, finally decided to uphold white supremacy (whatever that is) and forget the evidence. In carrying out this intention they, of course, made it as easy on the persecuted defendants whose faces happened to be black, as the statutes provided.

An outraged Negro citizenry will await with much concern the promised prosecution of a white man under the charge of "outraging public decency." We shall be happy to print in these columns at a later date the progress and outcome of such action.

Lynchings-1936
Rape by Whites.

Virginia

5457

A Virginia Judge Takes High Ground

Journal and Guide

IT IS A matter of common knowledge that juries in most southern communities, and even some judges, have taken offenses against Negro women complacently. The attitude has been, of course, most apparent where white men have committed the offense, but there are cases known to this newspaper where all-Negro cases have brought shockingly mild penalties. This has not been a universal practice but it has been all too prevalent, and the exceptions are encouraging when they come to light.

4-4-36

Such an exception is at hand, and the judge refusing to take an offense lightly because the victim was a Negro woman is a Virginia judge, presiding over the Hustings Court in Roanoke. He not only spoke in open court against letting racial bias unbalance the scales of justice, but declared that when he "is convinced that a jury of white men is not giving (Negroes) a square deal, I will put colored persons on the jury."

Norfolk, Va.

The case involved a young white man, one E. H. **Rogers**, and a young colored woman. The offender first pleaded not guilty. A hung jury resulted. When the case was resumed several days later the judge asked the jury if any of them had made up their minds about the case. Several admitted that they had. After a conference between the judge and the prosecutor the white man changed his plea to guilty, his penalty was fixed at six months in jail, and the court positively defined his attitude on the question at issue.

He began by saying he understood that the jury in the first trial was two for acquittal and ten for conviction for assault, "the latter wishing to impose a small fine and a small jail sentence." Whereupon the jurist, Judge J. **Lindsay Almond**, Jr., said:

"I don't want any race feeling in this court. I want the colored people—and the whole city—to know that. Juries must play fair and square with the colored race because they are entitled to that. Any time that a juryman believes he is biased in that respect, I think he should come to me and say so, and I will see that his name never goes into the jury box again. This is no place for race prejudice. I'm not criticizing anybody. As for the defendant here, I am sorry for his people."

Later he asked that his statement in the courtroom include also that when a jury of whites "is not giving a square deal, I will put colored persons on the jury." In a further statement, Judge **Almond** said:

"When a Negro man makes an improper advance towards a white woman, what happens to the temper of the community? You know without any elaboration from me. The Negro race has just as much right to resent such conduct on the part of the white man. Any man who cannot fairly and impartially weigh and adjudicate these matters without bias or prejudice and give both races even-handed justice has no place on a jury in this court."

Judge **Almond** is on high ground. As more judges apply his sound principles to the procedure in their courts, in that proportion will more exact and equal justice be administered.

General.

Lynchings-1936
Reports on, Sent Press.

5491

By FRANK MARSHALL DAVIS

Tribune 1-6-37

Washington D.C.

DEATH BY VIOLENCE

Statistics compiled by Tuskegee, always conservative, show nine lynchings in civilized America during 1936, with all the victims Negroes. The NAACP lists 13, including two whites who were killed by Michigan's infamous Black Legion. At this writing, figures compiled by the ILD are not available. Nor has anybody kept a record of the hundreds—or is it thousands?—of Negroes slain last year by other Negroes.

Tuskegee showed a drop of 11 from the 20 recorded in 1935, while NAACP figures revealed a drop of 15 from 28 reported the previous year. This decline is encouraging, but insufficient. There can be no rest until the evil is completely eradicated by strict laws and a changed public attitude in Dixie. And even then, there will still be a fight against legal lynchings at prisons under the guise of law and order.

This Congress will undoubtedly see the introduction of still more Federal anti-lynching legislation. The Democrats, who fought so valiantly and successfully for the colored vote in the presidential election, are in control. Republicans want to win back this support. Borrowing the tactics of Southern Democrats who filibustered against such statutes in bygone years, Republicans declare they will likewise throw a monkeywrench into Roosevelt's machinery by refusing to let Congress transact business until the anti-lynching bill is voted on. If a law is passed, they can use it for campaign fodder among Negroes. If it loses, they can go to colored voters and say, "See how the party you supported in 1936 turned you down?"

A Federal measure should be passed, and every Aframerican voter ought to demand that his Congressman and Senator support an anti-lynching bill whenever it comes up. But that is not all. At home every one of us should campaign in our homes, clubs, schools, churches and courts for stricter enforcement of our homicide laws and a greater respect for the lives of other people in order to reduce our staggering annual total of Negroes murdered by other Negroes.

Before 1937 ends, it is possible that many of you who read this will be injured, permanently crippled or killed because of the passions of your own racial brothers and sisters and their knowledge that if precedent is followed, they will go unpunished or receive only a joke fine or sentence.

FIGURES TOP LYNCH TOTAL BY TUSKEGEE

Amsterdam News

Drive Against Mobs To Be Pushed in This Congress

1-9-37

Instead of nine lynchings during 936, as Tuskegee Institute claimed ast week, there were a total of thir- een, declares the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth avenue, which also keeps a record of mob outbursts and which, in addition, investigates a number each year.

Ahead of both the Tuskegee and N. A. A. C. P. figures are those of the International Labor Defense, which lists twenty lynchings for the past year.

On one point, however, all three recording agencies agree: Governor Talmadge's State of Georgia, led the "Lynching Dis-Honor Roll," with five deaths at the hands of mobs to its credit. The I. L. D. and N. A. A. C. P. lists include two white victims, both murdered by the Black Legion of Michigan, but not the list of Tuskegee.

Difference Explained.

The difference in the records of the three organizations, which regularly keep track of mob violence follow in their usual pattern, with Tuskegee always turning in the most conservative figure.

International Labor Defense

5490

Lynchings-1936
Reports on, Sent Press.

I.L.D. REPORTS 20 LYNCHED DURING 1936

Guardian
1-16-37
Boston, Mass

NEW YORK, Jan. 12, (CNA) — Twenty lynchings, seventeen Colored victims and three white, were reported in the United States during 1936 according to International Labor Defense statistics. The I. L. D. listed two of the lynchings as "reported, but not confirmed." Georgia heading the list with five lynchings, Georgia 5, Arkansas 2, Virginia 2, Michigan 2, Illinois 1, Florida 1, Oklahoma 1, Texas 1, Mississippi 1, Alabama 1, and North Carolina

In four cases the reason or excuse given was "rape," in one "attempted rape," and in three "insulting a white woman." In two cases the victim was accused of murder, one of "wife-beating," one of hitting a white woman with an automobile, one of "religious zeal," one of refusing to join the Black Legion and of leading a group into ambush. In four cases the reputed reasons were unknown. In four instances police officers were officially reported to have participated in the lynchings.

Listed by the I. L. D. as reported, but not confirmed, are the cases of Frank Weems, Colored sharecropper, kidnapped and beaten by white plantation owners in Arkansas, June and not been heard of since, and Clifford Norris, a Raleigh, N. C., white farmer reported flogged to death by five Colored men and one white man last January. The two other whites lynched were victims of the murderous activities of the Black Legion. One minister, the Rev. Charles Evans of Fort Smith, Ark., was among the lynch victims. The I. L. D. reports he was "killed by 30 armed officers and citizens, charged with 'too much religious zeal and disturbance'." The mayor and the assistant chief of police of Windsor, N. C. led the lynch mob that killed Dennie Thrower, another Colored victim on Oct. 9. Thrower, attacked in his home, "held off the mob by firing at it for several hours, but was finally shot and killed. No motive determined."

In releasing its listing for publication the I. L. D. stated it does not claim that the list is complete, "as in previous years lynchings have frequently been uncovered long after they were perpetrated. It is more inclusive than other reports of lynchings made by other organizations because in compiling it the I. L. D. did not consider warrant of arrest for the victim issued before or after a lynching was any excuse for murder. In cases listed where a warrant was issued, or where police officers took part in the lynching, the I. L. D. established that these were no more than attempts to "legalize' the lynching, and in no sense actually changed its character as such."

I.L.D. Reports 20 Lynchings

Afro American
1-16-37

NEW YORK — Twenty lynchings, three with white victims, were reported in the United States during 1936, acording to statistics compiled by the International Labor Defense and released this week.

The NAACP has previously reported thirteen lynchings for the same period; Tuskegee Institute, nine.

The ILD listed two of the lynchings as "reported, but not confirmed." The number by States was given as: Georgia, 5; Arkansas, Virginia, and Michigan, 2 each; Illinois, Florida, Oklahoma, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, and North Carolina, 1 each.

In four instances police officers were officially reported to have participated in the mobbing. One minister, the Rev. Charles Evans of Fort Smith, Ark., was among the victims.

Lynchings-1936
Reports on.

Methodist Federation for Social Service.

5465

**BUFFALO, N. Y.
COURIER EXPRESS**

JAN 21 1936

NOT SO CIVILIZED

Use of terror, force, violence and intimidation against workers and unemployed increased and civil liberties reached a low ebb in the United States in 1935, the Methodist Federation for Social Service concludes from evidence gathered in the course of a nationwide survey. This discouraging judgment is based on reports of lynchings, beatings, vigilantes' raids, police brutality and suppressive legislation.

Dr. Harry F. Ward and Miss Winifred L. Chappell, secretaries of the federation, see the survey as revealing "a dangerous growth of Fascist methods used by big business and professional patriots."

In support of this conclusion, Dr. Ward and Miss Chappell say: "At least 73 workers, share-croppers, Negroes, were killed in economic struggles and lynchings during the year; no employers."

That is an uncivilized record, indeed. But are Dr. Ward and Miss Chappell sure that all 73 of those "workers, share-croppers, Negroes" were victims of "big business and professional patriots"? An economic basis can be found for race conflict in the South; but you must go back to Reconstruction days to find it. All racial differences cannot be rationalized from a book on economics; and when destitute blacks suffer violence at the hands of almost destitute whites, it takes a lively imagination to see a battle between Capital and Labor.

Cases of violence in the North, Middle West and West are cited, too, of course; and in vigilantes' outrages and police brutality the Methodist Federation finds more evidence in support of its economic warfare thesis.

Perhaps the report would have a greater impact on the public conscience if the directors of the survey had laid more emphasis on marshaling factual evidence and less on urging doctrinaire conclusions. For, whether or not one agrees that all this mass barbarism is the fault of "big business," none can deny that the record of violence is a shocking indictment of American civilization in the year 1935.

SURVEY CITES 73 LYNCHINGS DURING 1935

Methodist Federation for Social Service Reveals Investigation

NEW YORK. — Use of terror, force, violence and intimidation against workers and unemployed increased and civil liberties in this country reached a low ebb in the last year, it was reported Sunday by the Methodist Federation for Social Service on the basis of a survey of country-wide conditions.

The survey, entitled, "Force and Violence," cites lynchings, beatings, vigilantes' raids, police brutality and suppressive legislation enacted in 1935.

The report recounts incidents in the East, Middle West, South and West that reveal "a dangerous growth of Fascist methods used by big business and professional patriots," according to Dr. Harry F. Ward and Miss Winifred L. Chappell, secretaries of the Methodist Federation and editors of the survey.

See Violent Class Struggle

"The whole record," Dr. Ward and Miss Chappell write, "shows clearly that the struggle between the privileged and underpriviledged in this country is rapidly and generally developing into violent action.

"The situation is different from the frontier fighting on both sides in the earlier days of American industrial warfare. It is motivated not only by the desire to stop the workers from organizing and getting more pay but also by fear of impending social change.

"At least 73 workers, sharecroppers, Negroes, were killed in economic struggles and lynchings during the year; no employers. The reports show the workers carrying deadly weapons in only rare cases and then shooting only after being attacked.

"A labor press item," is cited by the investigators as the basis of their report that deputy sheriffs beat up a small group of women and children on Dec. 11, clubbed a 73-year-old woman and beat two boys.

The investigators also cite a letter to the New Masses written by a member of the Artists Union as the basis for their report on mounted police in Brooklyn who are alleged to have charged a picket line of women before a department store, beating women and girls with their fists.

Activities of Vigilantes

Basing their information on another "labor press dispatch," an Associated Press dispatch" and other sources not identified, the investigators describe alleged activities of vigilantes in Wierton, W. Va., who on June 15 launched "a vicious campaign of terror" against union members, taking one man for a 15-mile ride out of town, where they left him supposedly dead; a mob's attack on a union leader in Decatur, Ill., on Sept. 7; the murder of a Negro sharecropper and the whipping of his wife on a farm in Lowndes county, Ala., on Aug. 22; the fatal shooting of one striker and the wounding of a union foreman in the Gulfport longshoremen's strike at Houston, Texas, on Nov. 26.

Commenting on the significance of "these terroristic incidents," the report says:

"The condoning by the authorities of violence against radicals by lawless bands, their participation in it, was an accompaniment of the rise of power of Fascism in Italy, in Germany and Japan.

"What are the religious people who know that violence is wrongdoing to do about this? Are they going to take action to stop in their local communities the violence that is now being used against the poor and the weak before it produces, as it always has done in history, counter violence against the oppressors? Or are they going to stay comfortably by their firesides and in their churches and talk in abstract terms about violence and the ethics of the Gospels?"

Lynchings - 1936
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan - June

5459

Birmingham, Ala., Labor Advocate
July 16, 1936

LYNCHING RECORD FOR 1936

A report from Dr. F. D. Patterson, President of Tuskegee Institute, gives the record of lynchings in the United States for the first six months of 1936, as these records were compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the School. There were four lynchings during that period, the same number as during the similar preiod in 1935, and two less than during the first six months of 1934. All persons lynched were Negroes. Three of these lynchings occurred in Georgia and one in Arkansas.

There are no conditions under which a lynching is justifiable. When will our people come to that state of conscience where they will condemn and make impossible such travesty on justice?

Honea Path, S. C. Chronicle
July 16, 1936

Four Lynchings In Six Months

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and search that in the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were. rape. 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

The States is which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3.

Lynchings-1936
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. – June

5460

5460

Hendersonville, N. C. Times
July 11, 1936

A BETTER LYNCHING RECORD

It is encouraging to note that lynchings are definitely on the decline. Only four lynchings were reported for the first six months in this year as compared with a like number in the first six months of 1935, but two less lynchings than in 1934.

There is a growing tendency to let justice take its course through our courts, and "mob violence" is taking the back seat that it should. Public sentiment has been the chief cause of this change, and we believe the time is coming when there'll be no interference with the law's taking its course.—Newberry (S. C.) Observer.

St. Petersburg, Fla., Times
July 7, 1936

Florida Record Clear

Statistics released by the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial institute show that only four persons, all negroes, were lynched in the first six months of this year. One was hanged in Arkansas and the other three in Georgia. Florida had no lynchings, much to its credit. When the state can boast that it has abolished the floggers and the night riders, too, its record will really be clear.

MOULTRIE, GA.
OBSERVER

JUL 7 - 1936

The lynchings for the first six months of 1936 were reduced to a creditable and encouraging number, and the only thing about it that embarrasses a Georgian is the fact that three of the four lynchings taking place in the entire nation occurred in Georgia.

Wilmington, N. C. News
July 5, 1936

1936 LYNCHING RECORD

Lynchings for the first six months of 1936, as compiled by the research department of Tuskegee Institute, show neither increase nor decrease. There have been four, the same number as for the corresponding period of 1935. Three of the 1936 outrages occurred in Georgia and the fourth in Arkansas

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SPARTANBURG, S. C.
HERALD

JUL 7 - 1936

Lynchings in 1936

The lynching record for the first six months of 1936, as compiled by the Tuskagee Normal and Industrial Institute, shows but four acts of mob murder, three of them in Georgia and one in Arkansas. In 1935 the same number of illegal executions took place in the first six months and in 1934 the number was six.

It is gratifying to know of the decrease of lynchings in 1935 and 1936 compared with former years. It will be encouraging to all advocates of law and order in the South when a period of six months will record no lynchings. A year without mob vengeance would be hailed as the beginning of a new era in the South.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.
EAGLE

JUL 1 1 1936

Statistics on Lynchings.

Editor Brooklyn Daily Eagle:

I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and two less than the number for the first six months of 1934. All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, two; attempted rape, one; murder, one. The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, one; Georgia, three.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President Tuskegee Institute.
Tuskegee, Ala., July 6.

DAYTON, OHIO
NEWS

JUL 6 - 1936

LYNCHING RECORD

To the Editor of The News:

I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research that in the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and 2 less than the number six for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3.

F. D. PATTERSON,
Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute.
Tuskegee, Ala.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX.
EXPRESS

JUL 6 - 1936

AGAIN THE FIRST LINE OF ANTI-MOB DEFENSE

For the first half of 1936, Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute is able to turn out an encouraging, if not satisfactory report:

From the comparative figures it would appear that mob murder again is on the decline in this country—particularly in its stronghold, the "deep" South.

During the past six months, (that authority reports) four persons were lynched—three in Georgia and one in Arkansas. The circumstance that the domain of "lynch law" was confined to two States for as long as six months, is gratifying.

On the other hand, Georgia's decent citizens, who have fought this evil effectively under such fearless leaders as Julian Harris, must deplore their State's relapse. For some years after a courageous judge had sentenced several mob-participants to prison terms ranging from two years to life, Georgia was conspicuously absent from the lynch-murder roll. Now that Commonwealth again is compelled to redeem its good name.

Arkansas—also plagued with the "share-croppers' revolt" and, like Texas, celebrating its Centennial—faces a similar responsibility. However—recalling last year's experience—Texas is in no position to throw stones. In any event—with six months to go—felicitations upon the relatively favorable showing for 1936 would be premature. During the second half of last year 16 persons were lynched—bringing the total for 1935 up to 20 (two in Texas).

For its clean record at least thus far in 1936, Texas has to thank certain alert, quick-thinking, resourceful peace officers who outwitted the mob three times in succession and took nine prisoners to a safe refuge. Except for that action, a mob crime which would have shocked the Nation and brought infamy to Texas hardly could have been averted. Four of the nine intended victims—in the crowd that had killed an officer who was trying to quell a noisy carousal—were Negro women. As it turned out, the mob, when cheated of its prey, burned the cafe where the shooting had occurred.

For successfully dealing with the mob threat, Sheriff Koehl of Wharton County and his deputies have earned the State's thanks. They should receive the gold medal which the Commission on Interracial Co-operation (Atlanta) annually bestows for official courage in handling would-be lynchers.

Those officers have received many compliments from the Nation's press. This laudatory word by the New Orleans Times-Picayune is characteristic:

The officers "seem to have displayed coolness, courage, intelligence and due appreciation of their oaths to uphold the law. . . . The Centennial, and Texas, might have suffered gravely in more ways than one, but for the fact that a certain group of officers, somewhere between Houston and San Antonio, did the duty to which they were sworn."

Texas, along with other Southern States, is making headway against the mob. Credit is due schools, churches, civic organizations and newspapers for their campaigning and educational work. Until that effort shall become far more effective, however, the people's first line of defense against the mob will be courageous peace officers.

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4 LYNCHED IN 1ST HALF OF '36

Guardian

TUSKEGEE RECORDS GIVE SAME NUMBER AS FOR 1935

7-11-36

Boston Mass

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, in the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Colored. The offenses charged were: rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows. Arkansas, 1; Georgia 3.

ROANOKE, VA.
WORLD-NEWS

JUL 8 - 1936

WHERE GEORGIA LEADS

The lynching record for the first six months of 1936 as compiled by Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute shows four mob murders, the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and two less than in the first six months of 1934. All four of those lynched were Negroes. Three of these killings took place in Georgia, one in Arkansas.

It does not appear from the record that either in Georgia or in Arkansas any definite effort was made to apprehend those who formed these mobs and attacked the law and the courts.

The Tuskegee record confines itself to a strict interpretation. It does not include a variety of fights in which some one was killed. Lynching according to its definition, is not only the mob murder of a defenseless and unarmed prisoner, but is an attack on the law, since the accused person is already in custody.

While lynching has declined under the spur of an aroused public sentiment, there has been recent evidence of the same underlying spirit. In the Detroit area masked bands of regulators have sought to impose their own will for that of the law. In the Wilmington section of North Carolina there have been similar reports that certain persons have taken the law into their own hands to inflict punishment on other persons they decided to be "undesirable." The dangers in this censorious attitude are apparent. Once a secret society sets itself up as judge of the conduct of its neighbors, freedom of the individual and respect for the courts vanish.

From other States the evidence is plain that wherever public sentiment opposes mob violence, it does not occur. It is only when the mob knows that its actions will be condoned, only when weak-kneed officials know that public opinion will support their weak surrender of those in their charge that such outrages are possible. A community may not always be able to prevent disorder when an outraged mob forms. But it can insist that its officials do their duty, and that the leaders of that mob are brought into court to answer for their actions.

Sevierville Tenn

Vindicator

JUL 8 - 1936

4 LYNCHINGS DURING 1936

All Victims Were Negroes Georgia and Arkansas Are Only States Reported

Only four people were lynched during the first six months of 1936 according to a report released today.

Of the victims, all were negroes. Georgia with three lynchings and Arkansas with one were the only states reporting lynchings. The offenses charged were: rape 2, attempted rape 1, and murder 1.

This is the same number of lynchings for the first six months of 1935 and two less than the number for the same period in 1934.

Other Papers Say

Journal 7-4-36

Washington Iowa

OUR LYNCHING RECORD

Tuskegee Institute has just announced that during the first six months of this year, four Negroes were lynched in this country.

Although this number is somewhat smaller than the lynchings in other recent years, it is still too large. In a so-called civilized country like ours, there should be no lynchings.

Despite the petition of the N. A. A. C. P. and the appeal which Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell made to Congress in April, for anti-lynch legislation, no action in the matter was taken.

Addressing Congress, Representative Mitchell said:

"There is not a man in this house but who knows how strongly I oppose lynching, and how deeply interested I am in the early passage of a bill which will make this crime punishable by a Federal law enacted by this Congress.

"I know much progress has been made in the way of removing prejudice and securing support for this legislation. I shall continue to work for the passage of this bill, and the passage of other bills which I have introduced, that have for their purpose removing injustices from which my people now suffer."

We sincerely hope that the next Congress will enact a Federal anti-lynch law, which will prove the only effective means of preventing lawless mobs from shedding the blood of defenseless American citizens.

—Detroit Tribune

Henderson Ky

Times

JUL 16 1936

The Lynching Record for First Six Months 1936

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of -1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and two less than the number six for the first six months of -1934.

All the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas 1; Georgia, 3.

BRADENTOWN, FLA
HERALD

JUL 19 1936

No Call To Apologize

Statistics released recently by the Tuskeegee institute on lynchings showed only three states to have been affected by this type of violence during the first six months of the year yet the Baltimore Sun which never lets an opportunity to criticize pass discussed the question with reference to labor trouble at Gadsden, Alabama, as though no effort had been made to prevent this sort of lawlessness. This is not only unfair but is misleading since it presents a condition that in reality doesn't exist.

Lynchings, regardless of the cause or the manner in which they are carried out, are a reflection on the state in which they take place. Yet credit should be given for the effort that is made to curb this kind of activity. Instead, this work is passed over frequently without the critics' comment with considerable space always devoted to the affairs when they get out of hand. One lynching is more important to the critical than a dozen preventions. This suggests an unfriendly attitude on a section of the press that is entirely unwarranted.

The Herald has frequently said and still believes that we will have lynchings as long as the cause for them exists. Criticizing a state for the conduct of a handful of its people who work under the cover of darkness is without point. Nor do we believe that the effort to pass penalizing legislation for commission of this crime, if successful, would have the desired effect but merely add to the burden of a people who can't fairly be held to accountability since the transpiring is not of their knowledge or approval.

If the records are checked it will be found that many attempted lynchings have been prevented by official interference. This proves that the crime is without approval of the state or county government. But there are newspapers that imagine themselves crusading organs who can't see this because they don't wish to. The south regrets its lynchings, probably more than the north and east do their gang killings. But it doesn't have to apologize to anyone. The law of the majority and the rights of the individual are more greatly respected here than in those sections from which the greatest criticism comes.

Rocky Mount, N .C., News
July 10, 1936

1936 LYNCHING RECORD

Lynchings for the first six months of 1936, as compiled by the research department of Tuskegee Institute, show neither increase nor decrease. There have been four, the same number as for the corresponding period of 1835. Three of the 1936 outrages occurred in Georgia and the fourth in Arbansas.—Wilmington Star.

CONCORD, N. C.
TRIBUNE

JUL 17 1936

FEWER LYNCHINGS.

The Tuskegee Institute, which has kept accurate records on such events for many years, informs us that during the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings in the United States, all of the victims being Negroes.

Arkansas is charged with one lynching and Georgia with three. This is the same number of lynchings as in the corresponding period of 1935, but two less than in the first half of 1934.

While the record emphasizes the deplorable fact that we continue to have lynchings in this country, it provides a comparison which likewise shows that over the last few decades there has been a steady decline in this abominable practice.

Records show that in 1889 there were 175 lynchings in the country and that during the following decade there was only one year in which the number was less than 100, and that was in 1890, when 91 persons were lunched. In 1892 the total ran to 226. From 1900 through 1910, the smallest number lynched in any one year was 62 in 1907, but in three of these years the number ran to 100 or above. From 1911 through 1920, the annual lynchings ranged from a high of 96 in 1915 to a low of 48 in 1913. In 1921, there were 64 lynchings, in 1922, 61; in 1923, 28, and then the record dropped to 16 and 18 in 1924 and 1925. Since that time lynchings have become even fewer.

There will be no lynchings in the United States when officers and the public decide against this mannar of handling criminals and suspected criminals.

A mob never decides anything; it still lives in this country because officers are negligent and the public is indifferent.

Lynchings - 1936
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. - June.

5461

Georgia Has 3 Lynchings, Leads States

Tuskegee Records Total Of Four During First 6 Months

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—Four lynchings took place in the first six months of the year, according to the records compiled in the department of records and research at Tuskegee.

This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and two less than the number six for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3.

LYNCHING RECORD

THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS 1936

Negro Star

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

7-10-36

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON, President

Lynching Record

Journal

To the Editor:

Sir:—I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

7-10-36

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3.

F. D. PATTERSON.
President.
Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

YEAR'S LYNCH TOLL NOW 4

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala., July 9—(C)—So far this year there have been three lynchings in Georgia and one in Arkansas, all the victims colored, according to the records of Tuskegee Institute through June 30.

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
July 6, 1936

Improved Record

Lynching records in the state of Alabama improved somewhat with this first half year, according to reports just compiled. There were four lynchings in the first half of 1936 in this state, the same number as in the first half of 1935, but two less than the first six months of the year 1934.

All the persons lynched were negroes, the offenses being charged were: rape 2, attempted rape 2; murder 1.

In instances of justice such as that recently occuring in Madison county in which Walter Miller went to his death legally only a short while after the death of a young white women, there is reason to believe that lynchings will cease. It is only a fear of the courts bogging down that cause frenzy in the minds of people.

Lynching Record For First Six Months '36

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were, rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON

Four Lynchings In First 6 Mo. of 1936

All Victims Were Negroes

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala., July, 9.—The following information concerning the number of lynchings for the first six months of this year was contained in a recent release from the Institute which was signed by President F. D. Patterson:

". . . I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and 2 less than the number six for the first six months of 1934.

"All the persons lynched were Negroes. The offences charged were: rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

"The states in which lynching occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3."

Tuskegee Reports 4 Lynchings For First Six Months

TUSKEGEE INST., Ala. — According to figures recently released by the Department of Records and Research here, there were four lynchings during the first six months of 1936, it was announced this week. This number is the same as for the similar period of 1935 and 2 less than the total for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes, the offenses with which they were charged being rape, 2; attempted rape, 1 and murder, 1. Three of the lynchings occurred in Georgia and one in Arkansas, said the report.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
HERALD-TRIBUNE

JUL 4 - 1936

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4 Lynchings in 6 Months

Tuskegee's Record Shows 1936 Equal to 1935

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 3 (AP).—Four lynchings, three in Georgia and one in Arkansas, were recorded for the first six months of 1936 by Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research. All of the victims were Negroes. The number equaled the first half record for 1935. In 1934 there were six lynchings before July 1.

The report showed the following offenses charged to the 1936 victims: rape, two; attempted rape, one; murder, one.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
SUN

JUL 3 - 1936

Lynchings Total Four For First Half of 1936

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 3 (A. P.).—Four lynchings, three in Georgia and one in Arkansas, were recorded for the first six months of 1936 by the Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research.

All the victims were Negroes. The number equalled the first half record for 1935. In 1934 there were six lynchings before July 1.

The report showed the following offenses charged to the 1936 victims: rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

LYNCH RECORD FOR SIX MONTHS

According to a statement received from President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee, the lynch record for the first six months of 1936 totalled four, three of which were in Georgia and one in Arkansas.

All the murdered persons were Negroes and of these two were charged with alleged rape, one with attempted rape and one with murder.

Keeping Pace

The lynchers are keeping their standards up seeing that four persons were also lynched during the first six months of 1935.

Selma, Ala. Times
July 3, 1936

No lynchings in Alabama for the first six months of 1936. Wouldn't it be fine if Alabama could become a lynchless state for the next ten years?

Tifton, Ga., Gazette
July 6, 1936

Let's hope that Georgia did all its 1936 lynching during the first half of the year, and will show a better record for the last half. Of four lynchings reported for the first six months, three were charged to Georgia.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
TIMES

JUL 4 - 1936

Four Lynchings So Far in 1936

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 3 (AP).—Four lynchings, three in Georgia and one in Arkansas, were recorded for the first six months of 1936 by Tuskegee Institute's Department of Records and Research. All of the victims were Negroes. The number equalled the first half record for 1935. In 1934 there were six lynchings before July 1.

JOURNAL
JUL 9 - 1936

Four Lynchings Past Six Months

According to information given by F. D. Patterson, president of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, there were four lynchings during the first six months of 1936.

This compares equally with the first six months of 1935, and is two less than that of the first six months of 1934 which was six.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

The states in which the lynchings occured and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3.

McCOMB, MISS.
ENTERPRISE

JUL 9 - 1936

Pulse of the Press

Mississippi Without Lynching

There were no lynchings in Mississippi during the first six months of this year, according to a report just received from Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, who keeps a recrod of all such cases in the United States.

The report shows that there were four lynchings this year to July 1st. This is the same as for the first six months of 1935 and two less than the number, 6, for the first six months of 1934.

Of the lynchings so far this year, three occurred in Georgia and one in Arkansas. All were negroes. Two charged with rape, one attempted rape and one murder.

Mississippi has had more than her share in lynchings in the past and it is certainly to the credit of Mississippians and law enforcement officers that mob murders have been avoided so far this year. We hope that the record will be kept clean for the balance of the year. Let the law take its course, but let the courts do their part, also. We will have a section of the Washington County criminal court to convene on the 13th of this month. There are no doubt, a number of cases on the docket in which there might have been an excuse for mob violence. If juries and lawyers and witnesses do their part it will be a great help toward stamping out a desire for mob lawlessness in the future.

—Greenville Daily Democrat-Times.

DANVILLE, VA.
REGISTER

JUL 10 1936

Current Opinion

WHERE GEORGIA LEADS

(Roanoke World-News)

The lynching record for the first six months of 1936 as compiled by Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute shows four mob murders, the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and two less than in the first six months of 1934. All four of those lynched were Negroes. Three of these killings took place in Georgia, one in Arkansas.

It does not appear from the record that either in Georgia or in Arkansas any definite effort was made to apprehend those who formed these mobs and attacked the law and the courts.

The Tuskegee record confines itself to a strict interpretation. It does not include a variety of fights in which some one was killed. Lynching according to its definition, is not only the mob murder of a defenseless and unarmed prisoner, but is an attack on the law, since the accused person is already in custody.

While lynching has declined under the spur of an aroused public sentiment, there has been recent evidence of the same underlying spirit. In the Detroit area masked bands of regulators have sought to impose their own will for that of the law. In the Wilmington section of North Carolina there have been similar reports that certain persons have taken the law into their own hands to inflict punishment on other persons they decided to be "undesirable." The dangers in this censorious attitude are apparent. Once a secret society sets itself up as judge of the conduct of its neighbors, freedom of the individual and respect for the courts vanish.

From other States the evidence is plain that wherever public sentiment opposes mob violence, it does not occur. It is only when the mob knows that its actions will be condoned, only when weak-kneed officials know that public opinion will support their weak surrender of those in their charge that such outrages are possible. A community may not always be able to prevent disorder when an outraged mob forms. But it can insist that its officials do their duty, and that, the leaders of that mob are brought into court to answer for their actions.

DEL RIO, TEXAS
NEWS

JUL 8 - 1936

FEWER LYNCHINGS

Only four persons, all Negroes, were lynched in the United States in the first six months of 1936. That was four too many, but the record does show that some progress is being made in curbing the lynching evil.

In 1935, during the same period mentioned, the number of lynchings was four and in the corresponding period in 1934 the number was six.

Georgia, with three and Arkansas one, have made the lynching record in 1936 thus far. Texas would have had a place in the picture, no doubt, had not resourceful and courageous officers in Wharton County not long ago taken a number of prisoners, who were threatened with mob violence, to places of safety. For their action the officers were commended by Governor Allred.

Upon officers of the law depends in no small measure the answer to the question of how long it will be before lynching is entirely suppressed. It is necessary, of course, to have a public opinion opposed to mob violence, and there is no doubt that the predominance of public opinion now opposes the practice of groups taking the law into their own hands. Public support for officers who thwart and defy mobs is essential to sustained effort by officers to prevent lynchings.

But officers have to deal with mobs now and then and the manner in which they deal with them has a great deal to do with encouraging or discouraging respect for the law in their communities.—Houston Post.

COLUMBUS, OHIO
STATE JOURNAL

JUL 10 1936

The Lynching Record

Editor Ohio State Journal:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research that in the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and two less than the number six for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1. The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3.

F. D. PATTERSON.
President. Tuskegee Institute.

WATERVILLE, ME
SENTINEL

JUL 11 1936

According to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute four lynchings occurred in the United States during the first six months of 1936 which is the same number as during a like period in 1935 and two less than the record for 1934. All four of the men lynched were negroes and three of the lynchings occurred in Georgia and one in Arkansas. This shows that this offense against the public is chiefly a southern problem. That it will never be solved by the states where the most of these outside the law executions are carried out is certain and so far at least the influence of the southern congressmen has been sufficient to prevent any interference by the Federal government. Unquestionably the time is coming when this will happen, however, and when it does the killing of men by mobs will become a thing of the past except in possibly an occasional case where the provocation is so great that even usually level headed men will join in taking the law into their own hands.

DECATUR, ALA
DAILY

JUL 6 - 1936

Improved Record

Lynching records in the state of Alabama improved somewhat with this first half year, according to reports just compiled. There were four lynchings in the first half of 1936 in this state, the same number as in the first half of 1935, but two less than the first six months of the year 1934.

All the persons lynched were negroes, the offenses being charged were: rape 2, attempted rape 2; murder 1.

In instances of justice such as that recently occuring in Madison county in which Walter Miller went to his death legally only a short while after the death of a young white women, there is reason to believe that lynchings will cease. It is only a fear of the courts bogging down that cause frenzy in the minds of people

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SANFORD, FLA.
HERALD

JUL 7 - 1936

The fight against Lynch Law continues to make progress. During the first six months of 1936 there were, according to the Tuskegee Institute, only four lynchings on record. One of these was in Arkansas, and three of them in Georgia. During the first six months of last year there were also four lynchings, but in 1934 there were six lynchings in this six months' period.

Lynchings-1936
6
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. - June

5462

HERALD

Fitzgerald Ga

7/3/36

1936 Lynching Record Shows Decrease of 2

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research in the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and two less than the number six for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 1: Georgia, 3.

Evergreen, Ala., Courant
July 9, 1936

FOUR LYNCHINGS FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, in the first six months of 1936, there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

The States in which lynchings occured and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3.

THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS, 1936

Afro-American

Office of the President
Tuskegee Insitute, Ala.;
July 6, 1936.

7-9-36

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynhings for the first six months of this year: I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research in the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON,
President.

Six Months' Lynching Record

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 5.—Four persons, all Negroes, have been lynched in the United States thus far in 1936, F. D. Patterson, president of the Tuskegee Institute, said today in reviewing records compiled by the institute. Four were lynched in the first half of 1935 and six in the same period of 1934. Of the victims this year, two were charged with rape, one with attempted rape and one with murder. Three were lynched in Georgia and the fourth in Arkansas.

West Blocton, Ala., Enterprise
July 9, 1936

THE LYNCHING RECORD FIRST SIX MONTHS, 1936

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number ~~as~~ for the first six months of 1935, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

The States in which lynching occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia 3.

F. D. PATTERSON, President
Tuskegee Industrial Institute

Greensboro, N. C., News
July 5, 1936

4 LYNCHINGS REPORTED FIRST HALF OF YEAR

Records kept by the Tuskegee institute at Tuskegee, Ala., show that there were four lynchings during the first six months of this year, according to a letter to the Daily News from F. D. Anderson, president of the institute.

This number of lynchings is the same as for the first six months of 1935 and two less than for the first six months of 1934.

All those lynched were negroes. The offense alleged in two cases was criminal assault, in another attempted criminal assault and in the fourth murder. The state of Georgia was guilty of three of the lynchings and Arkansas one.

Carrollton, Ga., Times
July 9, 1936

Georgia Has Worst Lynch Record Of Entire Nation

Four lynchings occurred in the United States ruring the first six months of 1936, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and two less than the number for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1. One of the lynchings took place in Arkansas and three in Georgia.

Dalton, Ga., N. Ga. Citizen
July 16, 1936

4 NEGROES LYNCHED THIS YEAR; 3 IN GA.

During the first six months of the year, four people, all negroes, were lynched in the United States, according to information from F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee college, nationally known negro college.

This is two less than the number lynched in the same period last year.

The offenses charged were: rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state were: Georgia, 3; Arkansas, 1.

Lawrenceville, Ga., News-Herald
July 9, 1936

Lynching Record for First Six Months of 1936

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, in hte first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and two less than the number, six, for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurrde and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3.

COLUMBUS, O.
DISPATCH

JUL 8 - 1936

The Lynching Record So Far In 1936

Sir: I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research that in the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3.

F. D. Patterson,
President, Tuskegee Institute.

LOUISVILLE, KY.
COURIER-JOURNAL

JUL 5 - 1936

THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS 1936.

To the Editor of The Courier-Journal.

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find, according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, that in the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and two less than the number, six, for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, two; attempted rape, one; murder, one.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number ~~in~~ each State are as follows: Arkansas, one; Georgia, three.

F. D. PATTERSON.
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

GREENVILLE, MISS.
DEMOCRAT-TIMES

JUL 7 - 1936

MISSISSIPPI WITHOUT LYNCHING

There were no lynchings in Mississippi during the first six months of this year, according to a report just received from Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, who keeps a record of all such cases in the United States.

The report shows that there were four lynchings this year to July 1st. This is the same as for the first six months of 1935 and two less than the number, 6, for the first six months of 1934.

Of the lynchings so far this year, three occurred in Georgia and one in Arkansas. All were Negroes. Two charged with rape, oneattempted rape and one murder.

Mississippi has had more than her share in lynchings in the past and it is certainly to the credit of Mississippians and law enforcement officers that mob murders have been avoided so far this year. We hope that the record will be kept clean for the balance of the year. Let the law take its course, but let the courts do their part, also. We will have a section of the Washington County criminal court to convene on the 13th of this month. There are, no doubt, a number of cases on the docket in which there might have been an excuse for mob violence. If juries and lawyers and witnesses do their part it will be a great help toward the stamping out a desire for mob lawlessness in the future.

Newberry, S. C. Observer
July 7, 1936

A BETTER LYNCHING RECORD.

It is encouraging to note that lynchings are definitely on the decline. Only four lynchings were reported for the first six months in this year as compared with a like number in the first six months of 1935, but two less lynchings than in 1934.

There is a growing tendency to let justice take its course through our courts. and "mob violence" is taking the back seat that it should. Public sentiment has been the chief cause of this change, and we believe the time is coming when there'll be no interference with the law's taking its course.

West Point, Ga. News
July 9, 1936

Lynching Record Announced By F. D. Patterson

The following is the record of lynching for the first six months of this year as submitted by E. D. Patterson, president of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute:

In the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 1 Georgia, 3.

LYNCHING RECORD FOR SIX MONTHS OF 1936

Recorder

Tuskegee Normal and Industrial
Institute
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.
July 5, 1936.

7-7-36

Editor, "The Recorder."

Dear Sir: I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find, according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, that in the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and two less than the number for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

The states in which lynching occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON,
President.

LAKELAND, FLA.
Ledger & Star Telegram

JUL 5 - 1936

Three of the four lynchings reported during the first six months of 1936 occurred in Georgia and the other in Arkansas, according to records compiled by Tuskegee Normal institute. All the victims were colored.

Thomasville, Ga.. Times-Enterprise
June 16, 1936

DECIDED RIFT OF SOUTHERN OPINION OVER ANTI-LYNCH LEGISLATION REPORTED

Atlanta, Ga., June 16. (AP)—R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the commission on interracial cooperation, said today there has been a "decided drift" of southern opinion in favor of federal anti-lynch legislation in the past two years.

Informed that completion of a petition of 218 names had brought the Gavavan anti-lynch bill to the house calendar at Washington, Eleazer said:

"The interracial commission endorsed the idea of federal anti-lynching legislation in 1935 on the grounds the respective states, whose primary duty it is, had shown either the inability or the unwillingness to deal effectively with the lynching habit."

The endorsement was on general grounds, and did not approve any particular bill.

"In the last two years there has been a decided drift of southern opinion in favor of the passage of anti-lynching legislation," he said.

Lumpkin, Ga., Journal
July 10, 1936

Three Lynchings In Georgia During First Six Months Of 1936

According to reports compiled at Tuskegee Institute during the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings in the United States.

This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged with rape, 2; attempt rape, 1; murder1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3.

Blakeley, Ga.. News
July 9, 1936

Lynching Figures For First 6 Months Of 1936 Are Given

Figures compiled by F. D. Patterson, President of Turkegee Normal and Industrial Institute, Tuskegee, Ala., show the following:

There were four lynchings in the United States during the first six months of 1936. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

Three of the lynchings occurred in Georgia and one in Arkansas.

WORCESTER, MASS.
TELEGRAM

JUL 6 - 1936

LYNCHING RECORD

Same Number for First Halves of This Year and Last

To the Editor of the Telegram:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year: I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Departments of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and two less than the number, six, for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, two; attempted rape, one; murder, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, one; Georgia, three.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President, Tuskegee Institute.
Tuskegee, Ala., July 2.

[illegible], Ga.. News
July 9, 1936

Lynching Record For First Six Months, 1936

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, that in the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934,

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3.

HARTFORD, CONN.
COURANT

JUL 6 - 1936

THE LYNCHING RECORD

Four Negroes Killed By Mobs in First Half of Year

To the Editor of The Courant:—

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find, according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, that in the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and two less than the number for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, two; attempted rape, one; murder, one.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3.

F. D. PATTERSON.
President.
Tuskegee Institute, Ala., July 4, 1936.

NEW HAVEN, CONN.
JOURNAL-COURIER

JUL 10 1936

Lynching Record

To the Editor:

Sir:—I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3.

F. D. PATTERSON.
President.
Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

HARTFORD, CONN.
TIMES

JUL 7 - 1936

Lynching Record for First 6 Months 1936

To the Editor of The Times:

I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 2; attempted rape, 1 murder, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state ars as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3.

F. D. PATTERSON.
President.
Tuskegee, Ala., July 6.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.
Democrat Chronicle

JUL 24 1936

Lynchings Same As Last Year

Editor Democrat and Chronicle:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President, Tuskegee Institute

Lynchings - 1936
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. — June

5463

Hickory N. C Record
July 4, 1936

FIRST SIX MONTHS

Four lynchings were committed during the first six months of this year, according to F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. All of the victims were negroes, and three of them were put to death in Georgia and one in Arkansas.

The number is the same as for the first six months of 1935 and two less than for the first half of 1934. It would not be possible, therefore, to draw any conclusions that lynch law is becoming any less popular as a means to an imaginary end.

The report, however, impressed the writer particularly, coming as it did in the mail early today, due to the fact that we had just witnessed a most impressive moving picture dealing with mob violence a few hours previously.

We refer to the production "Fury", in which Spencer Tracy so dramatically essays the role of the victim of an unreasoning mob. Although the story may at times appear a trifle too melo-dramatic no spectator who sits it through and particularly those whose ill-fortune it has been to see lynch law in operation, can help being stirred deeply by the uncomfortable realism with which the scenario writer has portrayed the hideous fact that normal, God-fearing citizens of almost any typical community may be seized by such unreasoning frenzy as to permit themselves to drop to the level of beasts, and participate in horrible acts of mob violence.

The Record is of the opinion that the production "Fury" will serve a worthwhile purpose throughout America by divesting mob rule of all the specious arguments by which decent people have assumed to justify it in some extreme cases.

Concord, N. C. Tribune
July 17, 1936

FEWER LYNCHINGS.

The Tuskegee Institute, which has kept accurate records on such events for many years, informs us that during the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings in the United States, all of the victims being Negroes.

Arkansas is charged with one lynching and Georgia with three. This is the same number of lynchings as in the corresponding period of 1935, but two less than in the first half of 1934.

While the record emphasizes the deplorable fact that we continue to have lynchings in this country, it provides a comparison which likewise shows that over the last few decades there has been a steady decline in this abominable practice.

Records show that in 1889 there were 175 lynchings in the country and that during the following decade there was only one year in which the number was less than 100, and that was in 1890, when 91 persons were lunched. In 1892 the total ran to 226. From 1900 through 1910, the smallest number lynched in any one year was 62 in 1907, but in three of these years the number ran to 100 or above. From 1911 through 1920, the annual lynchings ranged from a high of 96 in 1915 to a low of 48 in 1913. In 1921, there were 64 lynchings, in 1922, 61; in 1923, 28, and then the record dropped to 16 and 18 in 1924 and 1925. Since that time lynchings have become even fewer.

There will be no lynchings in the United States when officers and the public decide against this manner of handling criminals and suspected criminals.

A mob never decides anything; it still lives in this country because officers are negligent and the public is indifferent.

Greenville, Miss., Democrat Times
July 7, 1936

MISSISSIPPI WITHOUT LYNCHING

There were no lynchings in Mississippi during the first six months of this year, according to a report just received from Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, who keeps a record of all such cases in the United States.

The report shows that there were four lynchings this year to July 1st. This is the same as for the first six months of 1935 and two less than the number, 6, for the first six months of 1934.

Of the lynchings so far this year, three occurred in Georgia and one in Arkansas. All were Negroes. Two charged with rape, oneattempted rape and one murder.

Mississippi has had more than her share in lynchings in the past and it is certainly to the credit of Mississippians and law enforcement officers that mob murders have been avoided so far this year. We hope that the record will be kept clean for the balance of the year. Let the law take its course, but let the courts do their part, also. We will have a section of the Washington County criminal court to convene on the 13th of this month. There are, no doubt, a number of cases on the docket in which there might have been an excuse for mob violence. If juries and lawyers and witnesses do their part it will be a great help toward stamping out a desire for mob lawlessness in the future.

Statesville, N. C. Daily
July 3, 1936

Lynching Record For Six Months

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., July 3.—According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research for the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and two less than the number six for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, two; attempted rape, one; murder, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number of each state are as follows. Arkansas one, Georgia 3.

Hendersonville, N. C. Times
July 6, 1936

LYNCHING FIGURES FOR 6 MONTHS SAME AS FOR LAST YEAR

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 6.—According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research for the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings in that period. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and two less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3.

Athens, Tenn., Post Athenian
July 15, 1936

FOUR LYNCHINGS FIRST HALF YEAR SAME 1935

There were four lynchings in the nation during the first six months of the present calendar year, according to records compiled by Tuskegee Normal Institute in Alabama, this being the same as for the coresponding period in 1935, and two fewer than the number for the first six months of 1934. All of the persons lynched were Negroes, one in Arkansas and three in Georgia. Two of the victims were charged with rape, one with attempted rape and one with murder.

Sanford Fla. Herald
July 7, 1936

The fight against Lynch Law continues to make progress. During the first six months of, 1936 there were, according to the Tuskegee Institute, only four lynchings on record. One of these was in Arkansas, and three of them in Georgia. During the first six months of last year there were also four lynchings, but in 1934 there were six lynchings in this six months' period.

Jackson, Ga., Progress-Argus
July 10, 1936

FOUR PERSONS LYNCHED IN FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1936

Four persons were lynched in the first six months of 1936, the same number as last year, according to records kept by Tuskeegee Institute. All those lynched were negroes and the crimes charged were rape, 2; attempted rape 1; murder, 1. States in which lynchings occurred were: Arkansas, 1; Georgia 3.

Lanett, Ala. Times
July 8, 1936

Lynching Record Announced By F. D. Patterson

The following is the record of lynching for the first six months of this year as submitted by E. D. Patterson, president of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute:

In the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3.

Montgomery, W. Va. News
July 10, 1936

Four Lynchings For First Six Months This Year

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research in the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and two less than the number six for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, two; attempted rape, one, and murder, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, one, and Georgia, three.

Roanoke, Ala., Leader
July 8, 1936

REPORT ON L[illegible]

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research in the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia,

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Milton, Fla., Gazette
July 9, 1936

FOUR LYNCHINGS IN U. S. DURING FIRST SIX MONTHS

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, there were a total of four lynchings in the United States during the first six months of 1936. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3.

Blakeley, Ga. News
July 16, 1936

AN UNENVIABLE FIRST

(Moultrie Observer)

The lynchings for the first six months of 1936 were reduced to a creditable and encouraging number, and the only thing about it that embarrasses a Georgia is the fact that barrasses a Georgian is the fact that three of the four lynchings taking place in the entire nation occurred in Georgia.

Ashland, Ala. Progress
July 9, 1936

Four Negroes Lynched In United States This Year

F. D. Patterson, president of the Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala., furnishes the following information regarding lynchings in the United States during the first half of the present year.

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: :Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3.

ADVOCATE
Nashville
Tenn
JUL 9 - 1936

Lynchings For Six Months 1936

According to the research department of the Tuskegee Institute there were four lynchings for the first six months of 1936. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and two less than the number six for the first six months of 1934.

All persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3.

Tuskegee Ala
News 7/9/36

Lynching Record For First Six Months '36

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Reocrds and Research that in the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were, rape, 2; attempted rape, 1; murder, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON

Washington Tribune
Washington D.C.
7-25-36

I. L. D. Lists 10 Lynchings, 7 Labor Deaths

Report Reveals Two Whites Victims of Mob Law During Year

According to the records of the International Labor Defense, ten persons have been lynched and seven workers killed in struggles since last January. Of the ten persons who were lynched, eight were Negroes. Of the seven workers who were killed in struggles, one was a Negro.

The first Negro to be lynched in 1936 was Mace Gray, at Carthage, Texas, who was shot by a mob after he had been charged with injuring two white girls with an automobile.

Man Suspected

Last February, Willie Jones was shot to death by an Altus, Okla., mob of several hundred, who suspected him of killing a white child. Philip Baker was hanged and shot by a mob on March 14, in Cusseta, Ga. Baker had been arrested last December on a charge of attacking two white women. While the sheriff was taking the prisoner to Macon for "safekeeping," a mob, masked, took the prisoner from the officer.

The fourth Negro lynched this year was Lint Shaw, of Colbert, Ga., who was hanged and shot by a group of fifty persons after a charge of insulting a white woman. Nineteen-year-old Willie Kees, of Lepanto, Ark., was taken by a gang of ten masked men and hanged on suspicion of having attacked a white girl.

Shot to Death

Last May 3, John Rushin, charged with killing a white man, was dragged through Pavo, Ga., by a mob and shot to death. His body was left in the yard of a colored school.

William Wales and his sister, Cora Wales, of Gordonsville, Va., were shot and burned to death in their shack after a battle in which they defended themselves against five hundred persons, including state troopers with machine guns. The report that Wales had insulted and threatened a white woman was later denied by the woman who was supposed to have been threatened.

Whites Lynched

The other two persons lynched were both white, Charles A. Poole, Detroit, Michigan, and Roy Pidcock, Fighting Island, Canada. Poole was shot to death by the Black Legion, charged with wife beating.

Pidcock was kidnapped in Detroit by the Black Legion, taken across the international boundry to Fighting Island, where he was hanged. He had been active in labor organization and was said to have been killed because he refused to join the Black Legion.

Shot by Planters

The Negro who was killed in a workers' struggle was Willie Hurst, member of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, of Earle, Ark., who was shot down at the home of a friend by planters, after he testified on behalf of Jim Bell, framed Negro union leader, who has been sentenced to seven years in jail.

Washington Tribune
Washington D.C.
7-25-36

Bradenton, Fla., Herald
July 19, 1936

No Call To Apologize

Statistics released recently by the Tuskeegee institute on lynchings showed only three states to have been affected by this type of violence during the first six months of the year yet the Baltimore Sun which never lets an opportunity to criticize pass discussed the question with reference to labor trouble at Gadsden, Alabama, as though no effort had been made to prevent this sort of lawlessness. This is not only unfair but is misleading since it presents a condition that in reality doesn't exist.

Lynchings, regardless of the cause or the manner in which they are carried out, are a reflection on the state in which they take place. Yet credit should be given for the effort that is made to curb this kind of activity. Instead, this work is passed over frequently without the critics' comment with considerable space always devoted to the affairs when they get out of hand. One lynching is more important to the critical than a dozen preventions. This suggests an unfriendly attitude on a section of the press that is entirely unwarranted.

The Herald has frequently said and still believes that we will have lynchings as long as the cause for them exists. Criticizing a state for the conduct of a handful of its people who work under the cover of darkness is without point. Nor do we believe that the effort to pass penalizing legislation for commission of this crime, if successful, would have the desired effect but merely add to the burden of a people who can't fairly be held to accountability since the transpiring is not of their knowledge or approval.

If the records are checked it will be found that many attempted lynchings have been prevented by official interference. This proves that the crime is without approval of the state or county government. But there are newspapers that imagine themselves crusading organs who can't see this because they don't wish to. The south regrets its lynchings, probably more than the north and east do their gang killings. But it doesn't have to apologize to anyone. The law of the majority and the rights of the individual are more greatly respected here than in those sections from which the greatest criticism comes.

MIDDLETOWN, CON
PRESS
JUL 24 1936

Black Lynching Record

The special case of Lint Shaw, saved once from lynching by a courageous judge, only to be captured by a mob and killed on the eve of his trial, together with agitation in favor of the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill, have served during recent months to keep steadily before the public eye the crime of extra-legal action in the South. With it has grown an impression that the docket of Judge Lynch's court had been specially crowded during the last half year.

However, a report from the Tuskegee Institute reveals the record for the first six months of 1936 as identical with the first six months of 1935 and showing two less lynchings than the six recorded for the first six months of 1934.

Of the four persons lynched up to July 1, 1936, all were Negroes. One of the lynchings occurred in Arkansas, three in Georgia. In two cases, the victims were charged with rape; in another, attempted rape; in the fourth, murder. Had these charges been sustained the court penalties would of course have been severe. But Southern night riders weren't willing to have the matters referred to the courts or to await court action. The result was incidents which reflect heavily on the two commonwealths in which they occurred, and also on the nation.—Waterbury Republican.

Lynchings- 1936
&
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. - June

5464

HOUSTON, TEX.
POST

JUL 7 - 1936

Fewer Lynchings

ONLY four persons, all negroes, were lynched in the United States in the first six months of 1936. That was four too many, but the record does show that some progress is being made in curbing the lynching evil.

In 1935, during the same period mentioned, the number of lynchings was four and in the corresponding period in 1934 the number was six.

Georgia, with three and Arkansas one, have made the lynching record in 1936 thus far. Texas would have had a place in the picture, no doubt, had not resourceful and courageous officers in Wharton county not long ago taken a number of prisoners, who were threatened with mob violence, to places of safety. For their action the officers were commended by Governor Allred.

Upon officers of the law depends in no small measure the answer to the question of how long it will be before lynching is entirely suppressed. It is necessary, of course, to have a public opinion opposed to mob violence, and there is no doubt that the predominance of public opinion now opposes the practice of groups taking the law into their own hands. Public support for officers who thwart and defy mobs is essential to sustained effort by officers to prevent lynchings.

But officers have to deal with mobs now and then and the manner in which they deal with them has a great deal to do with encouraging or discouraging respect for the law in their communities.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.
PRESS

JUL 7 - 1936

THE LYNCH RECORD

The lynch record for the first six months of the current year, released by the Tuskegee institute, shows that barbarism has yet to yield to the orderly enforcement of the law in a few states. During the six-month interval there were four lynchings recorded, this being the same number as in the first six months of last year and two less than in 1934, a note a progress that is deeply encouraging. All of the victims were Negroes, each succumbing at the hands of a mob of murderers who were probably so stupid that they thought they were enforcing the law.

How ironical it is that with million-dollar leagues for the preservation of liberty this country should still permit a denial of the most fundamental of all liberties—the right to a fair trial! For how can there be even a semblance of liberty when mad mobs are permitted to take the law into their own hands and administer a sort of jungle law without giving their victim even a chance to be heard?

We have no sympathy with those guilty of the crimes charged against the lynch victims, but even if guilty they are entitled to a trial and a chance to defend themselves. How they can be taught to obey the law thru a system of lynching which is in direct violation of the law is a question that but betrays the mania that seizes the mind of the lynch mob.

There has been a great deal of talk about liberty in this country during the past few years. One way that its sponsors might make liberty substantial as well as nominal would lead to the passage of legislation, by the federal government if necessary, to stamp out lynching and demonstrate that despite the fact that mobs of murderers have been disregarding it the law is still supreme.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
July 6, 1936

Four Lynchings.

Tuskegee Institute, which keeps a record of lynchings from year to year, reports that there were four such mob murders for the first six months of this year. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and two less than the number for the first six months of 1934. All the victims were Negroes, two of whom were charged with rape, one with attempted rape and one with murder. Three of the lynchings occurred in Georgia and one in Arkansas.

This is perhaps as good a record as has been made in any six months in a long time. Of course there should be no lynchings, but that there have not been more than four in the first half of the year is rather encouraging when it is recalled that quite often two or three times that many have occurred in a six-month period. It is also encouraging to note that there have been lynchings in only two States since the first of the year.

While the law-abiding public will hope otherwise, lynching mobs may be much more active during the remainder of the year than in the last six months. Also they may operate in a larger number of States. There will be no assurance that a mob outrage will not be committed at any time and almost anywhere in the South until all the States which have been disgraced by these crimes, and may expect to be disgraced again, enact laws which will be of effect in dealing with the problem, and then enforce the laws.

Virginia has had a very good anti-lynching law for some eight years and there has not been a lynching in the State during that time. Other Southern States should have similar statutes. It is their duty to make lynching a crime against the State and to provide penalties which would-be mobsters and officers who may fail properly to protect their prisoners would not care to incur. So long as that duty is neglected it will be difficult to convince people of other sections that public sentiment in the South is against lynching.

BRADENTOWN, FLA.
HERALD

JUL 7 - 1936

That Day Is Not Yet

Figures released at Tuskegee institute covering the first six months of the present year show four lynchings to have occurred in the south during that period to equal the record for the first six months of the previous year but two less than for the same period in 1934. The report, cryptic, said:

"All the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: criminal assault, 2; attempted criminal assault, 1; murder, 1. The states in which the lynchings occurred, and the number in each state were: Arkansas, 1; Georgia, 3."

The smallness of the number to which this type of outrage has dwindled in recent years is indeed pleasing. Shows progress that will be welcomed and applauded by people generally although we need not delude ourselves. Lynch law will continue in remote communities just as long as brutality kindles the fires of hatred. All the laws that can be passed will not suppress mob passion including the foolish plan to tax counties to pay compensation to the victims of mob action.

No institution including Tuskegee deplores lynching more than this newspaper. But we believe the type that precipitates the outrage has some responsibility. Persons foolish enough to put their hands in wild animals mouths may expect to be injured. So it is with the brute and the moron who goes out to vent his lust on helpless women and little girls. The law grows very dim when it is seen through the red of aroused passion. Lynching has been brought under control more through abandonment of crimes that calls for the noose and the pyre than by fear of the law. For this reason it may be eventually stamped out. But that day is not yet.

WINSTON SALEM, N. C.
JOURNAL

JUL 9 - 1936

Our Lynching Record

Tuskegee Institute, which keeps a record of these things, reports that the South, for the first half of 1936, is even up on the first six months of 1935 with four lynchings.

This is both encouraging and deplorable. It is gratifying to know that there has been no increase, but deplorable in that no decrease in number of lynchings is shown.

The fact which stares us out of countenance is that the old mob spirit still prevails here and progress in eradicating it is slow.

This gives us no room for discouragement, however. All progress against prejudice and malevolent preconceptions is slow. It cannot be stamped out overnight.

An extensive, intensive and persistent educational campaign against lynching is the long view remedy. For immediate remedies we must look to the increasing alertness and determination of sheriffs and other officers of the law to prevent lynchings in any serious cases involving Negroes.

A number of courageous sheriffs and other officers of mettle and ingenuity have demonstrated that lynchings often can be prevented when the officers do not let their own sympathy with the mob outweigh their judgment and their duty. When every sheriff of every county in the South adopts an attitude of determination in connection with the prevention of lynching, Judge Lynch will not be put altogether out of the ring, but we venture that the old boy will be clinging to the ropes.

WILMINGTON, DEL.
Eve. Journal-Every Eve'g.

JUL 7 - 1936

Four Lynchings

ABOUT all that can be said for the statistics on lynchings for the first half of 1936, that have been released by the Tuskegee Institute, is that we are precariously holding our own.

During the six months four men, all Negroes, were murdered by mobs. Three of the lynchings occurred in Georgia; the fourth in Arkansas.

Exactly the same number of lynchings blotted the record for the first six months of 1935. During the same period of 1934, six men were lynched.

These figures represent a long stride from the days of wholesale lynchings in the southern states. Education and a higher respect for law and order have cut the totals down.

But we have no excuse for resting on our oars until the record is entirely clear. Four lynchings, four cases where mobs took the law into their own hands are far too many to be chalked up in the short space of six months. The figures take no account, either, of the number of cases in which lynchings were attempted and failed because of resolute and courageous action on the part of officers of the law.

The law, which protects the lives and property of men, rests solely on the respect which is shown it by the community. The lesson that lynchers must learn is that mob rule is not only cruel and inhuman but that it strikes at the very foundations of the law.

McComb, Miss. Enterprise
July 9, 1936

Pulse of the Press

Mississippi Without Lynching

There were no lynchings in Mississippi during the first six months of this year, according to a report just received from Dr. F. D. Patterson, president, of Tuskegee Institute, who keeps a recrod of all such cases in the United States.

The report shows that there were four lynchings this year to July 1st. This is the same as for the first six months of 1935 and two less than the number, 6, for the first six months of 1934.

Of the lynchings so far this year, three occurred in Georgia and one in Arkansas. All were negroes. Two charged with rape, one attempted rape and one murder.

Mississippi has had more than her share in lynchings in the past and it is certainly to the credit of Mississippians and law enforcement officers that mob murders have been avoided so far this year. We hope that the record will be kept clean for the balance of the year. Let the law take its course, but let the courts do their part, also. We will have a section of the Washington County criminal court to convene on the 13th of this month. There are no doubt, a number of cases on the docket in which there might have been an excuse for mob violence. If juries and lawyers and witnesses do their part it will be a great help toward stamping out a desire for mob lawlessness in the future.

—Greenville Daily Democrat-Times.

GREENVILLE, S. C.
NEWS

JUL 6 - 1936

DECLINE IN LYNCHINGS

During the first half of 1936, there were four lynchings in the United States, all of the victims being negroes, according to records compiled by the Tuskegee Institute.

Arkansas is charged with one lynching and Georgia with three. This is the same number of lynchings as in the corresponding period of 1935, but two less than in the first half of 1934.

While the record emphasizes the deplorable fact that we continue to have lynchings in this country, it provides a comparison which likewise shows that over the last few decades there has been a steady decline in this abominable practice.

Records show that in 1889 there were 175 lynchings in the country and that during the following decade there was only one year in which the number was less than 100, and that was in 1890, when 91 persons were lynched. In 1892 the total ran to 226. From 1900 through 1910, the smallest number lynched in any one year was 62 in 1907, but in three of these years the number ran to 100 or above. From 1911 through 1920, the annual lynchings ranged from a high of 96 in 1915 to a low of 48 in 1913. In 1921, there were 64 lynchings, in 1922, 61; in 1923, 28, and then the record dropped to 16 and 18 in 1924 and 1925. Since that time lynchings have become even fewer.

There has very evidently been a steadily increasing public sentiment against "mob law" in this country and along with it more determined efforts on the part of law officers to prevent such crimes. That is a distinctly encouraging aspect of the situation and certainly suggests the hope that we are moving into a time when a lynching will be a genuine rarity.

Winston-Salem, N. C. Journal
July 9, 1936

Our Lynching Record

Tuskegee Institute, which keeps a record of these things, reports that the South, for the first half of 1936, is even up on the first six months of 1935 with four lynchings.

This is both encouraging and deplorable. It is gratifying to know that there has been no increase, but deplorable in that no decrease in number of lynchings is shown.

The fact which stares us out of countenance is that the old mob spirit still prevails here and progress in eradicating it is slow.

This gives us no room for discouragement, however. All progress against prejudice and malevolent preconceptions is slow. It cannot be stamped out overnight.

An extensive, intensive and persistent educational campaign against lynching is the long view remedy. For immediate remedies we must look to the increasing alertness and determination of sheriffs and other officers of the law to prevent lynchings in any serious cases involving Negroes.

A number of courageous sheriffs and other officers of mettle and ingenuity have demonstrated that lynchings often can be prevented when the officers do not let their own sympathy with the mob outweigh their judgment and their duty. When every sheriff of every county in the South adopts an attitude of determination in connection with the prevention of lynching, Judge Lynch will not be put altogether out of the ring, but we venture that the old boy will be clinging to the ropes.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
POST

JUL 7 - 1936

Clean Hands

To the credit of her courts, her law enforcement officers and her people in general, the name of Alabama again is absent from the semi-annual report of the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute on lynchings.

During the first six ~~months~~ of this year there were four lynchings, three in Georgia and one in Arkansas.

Reliable records on lynchings by states date back only to 1889. From that date through 1933 Georgia has been second only to Mississippi in the number of mob murders committed within her borders. Texas and Louisiana rank third and fourth respectively and Alabama stands fifth.

It is encouraging however to see that the country as a whole is making progress.

In the 18 years from 1882 to 1900 there was an average of 158 lynchings a year, but the turn of the century saw a marked decrease, the annual average dropping to 67.2 from 1900 to 1924. From 1924 to 1934 the annual average had dropped to 18.5.

The record is one which should give us decided encouragement but the work of orderly society in this direction is not done. It will never end so long as one mob flaunts the law and the life of one man is sacrificed to satisfy the blood lust of the wolf pack.

Alabama may be justly proud of her record so far this year, but we cannot escape the feeling it would be far safer if the Federal Government were delegated the authority and responsibility to track down and punish every participant in murder mobs.

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO
VINDICATOR

JUL 7 - 1936

The Lynching Record

Editor The Vindicator and Telegram, Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1936 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935, and two less than the number six for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, two; attempted rape, one; murder, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, one; Georgia, three.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
July 7, 1936

Lynchings in 1936

The lynching record for the first six months of 1936, as compiled by the Tuskagee Normal and Industrial Institute, shows but four acts of mob murder, three of them in Georgia and one in Arkansas. In 1935 the same number of illegal executions took place in the first six months and in 1934 the number was six.

It is gratifying to know of the decrease of lynchings in 1935 and 1936 compared with former years. It will be encouraging to all advocates of law and order in the South when a period of six months will record no lynchings. A year without mob vengeance would be hailed as the beginning of a new era in the South.

Lynchings-1936
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan.-Dec.

5458

MURPHYSBORO ILL. INDPT
MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1936

LYNCHINGS NEAR EXTINCTION

Each year the Tuskegee Institute compiles and publishes the statistics on lynching in America.

It is a useful task, because it keeps the country informed of the progress being made in stamping out this blot on civilization.

For 1936 a new low mark was reached in lynching. There were only 9 lynchings reported during the year, compared with 20 for 1935, 15 for 1934 and 28 for 1933. Of the nine persons lynched, six were already in the hands of the law.

There were 35 cases in which officers of the law prevented lynchings.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged against them were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share croppers' strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states which suffered the disgrace of lynchings were: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 2; Mississippi, 1.

Of course nine lynchings in one year are just nine too many, but the figures hold out the hope that lynching will ultimately be stamped out. It may yet take its place along with kidnaping as a crime which isn't tolerated in America.

Fear Lynching As Prisoner Is Missing From Jail Cell

Wired 7-37

BUTLER, Ga.—(ANP)—That Georgia, which last year had five of the nine lynchings recorded by Tuskegee may have been the first this year to invoke mob rule was feared here Saturday as officers were unable to account for the disappearance of Jim Welcher, 19 charged with robbing Sam Swearington, white, station agent at Charing, Ga., of $3 in a night [illegible] earlier in the week.

Atlanta Ga.

The white man suffered a skull fracture and has been intermittently unconscious since then. Sheriff J. M. Bone, who took office New Year's day said Welcher was missing from the jail when he assumed his official duties although nothing was broken at the jail.

R. C. McDuffie, Bone's predecessor, said the boy disappeared New Year's eve. The former sheriff said that even though he and the town marshal held the only apparent keys to the jail, someone "got in somehow". He asserted he was told by other prisoners that someone came and took away Welcher. No trace has been found of him since then.

Rome, Ga., News-Tribune
January 4, 1937

GEORGIA'S LEAD IN LYNCHINGS

WHEN the roll of lynchings for 1936 is compiled, it is found that Georgia led all the rest, with a total of five, while not one occurred in the surrounding states of Alabama, Tennessee and the Carolinas.

Why this breakdown in law and order in the state of Georgia? That is a question that should interest the churches, the educational leaders and all the thoughtful citizens in all the walks of life.

A state that takes pronounced leadership in lynchings is not the state which is going to appeal most strongly to those seeking new homes or new fields of investment, and Georgians should take steps to end the existing condition.

When outbreaks of mob violence increase it shows a significant lack of enforcement as well as a lack of support for the law, and that is always bad. Georgians are too rich in religious, moral and spiritual qualities to permit a condition of this nature to continue but it will continue unless these influences are put to work more aggressively.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
January 3, 1937

GEORGIA'S LEAD IN LYNCHINGS

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Sanford Fla. Herald
Jan. 2. 1937

Lynch Law

Among the other developments of 1936, many of which showed definite trends in the right direction, lynch law, which for many years has been one of the most serious blotches on the good name of this country, particularly of the South, suffered a serious setback. If the improvement in the annual number of lynchings continues, it may not be long before Judge Lynch can be permanently retired from the bench.

The report for 1936 just released by the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute reveals that during the entire year only nine persons in the whole United States met death by lynching. In 1935 there were twenty persons lynched in this country; during the previous year there were fifteen, and in the year preceding there were twenty-eight.

However, these figures do not tell the whole story of the progress which has been made in maintaining law and order. During 1936, when the fewest number of persons were actually lynched in many years, there were no less than thirty-five other instances in which attempts were made at lynching which proved unsuccessful.

In preventing these thirty-five lynchings from taking place, the lives of not less than sixty-nine persons were saved; since, in many instances, there were two or more possible victims involved. In preventing the lynchings, no lives were lost, and officers of the law avoiding any possible violence simply by the timely removal of prisoners to places of safety, or by taking other necessary precautions. In only five cases was armed force necessary to repel would-be lynchers.

In the nine cases where lynchings actually occurred, six of the victims were already in the hands of the law and presumably would have been properly punished for their crimes, if guilty, had the law been allowed to take its course. The other three had not yet been captured, but there is no reason to believe they would not have been if the officers had been given time.

As a new year begins, let us hope that continued progress will be made in stamping out this constant threat to law and order.

Anderson, S. C., Record
January 1, 1937

NINE LYNCHINGS IN 1936

(Spartanburg Journal)

For the year 1936 South Carolina had a clean slate as regards lynching and the forces of law and order and lawabiding and respecting citizenship hope it will remain so during the future. Only nine lynchings are recorded for the year by the Tuskegee Institute, all in southern states. Georgia led with five, with Arkansas second with two. In Florida and in Mississippi there was one each.

Nine lynchings are just nine too many, and while such assaults upon law and order by the mob are not confined to any given section, as records of past years show, the fact that all nine occurred in the South give the critics and baiters of this section one more argument to harp upon.

Jackson, Miss., News
December 30, 1936

THE LYNCHING RECORD

Here's a hard lick at those Yankees who are going to push an anti-lynching bill at the approaching session of Congress—a bill that has not a Chinaman's chance for passage.

The department of research at Tuskegee Institute which keeps statistics on the subject, reports that there were only nine persons lynched in the United States during the year 1936, and only one of the number occurred in Missisippi.

Records by states are:

Mississippi 1.

Florida 1.

Arkansas 2.

Georgia 5.

This is 11 less than the number lynched in 1935; six less than the number lynched in 1934; 19 less than the number lynched in 1933.

Of the nine lynched in 1936 all were negroes, three charged with rape, three charged with attempted rape, one with murder, one for activity in a share cropper strike, and one for a charge not reported.

Six of the negroes lynched were in the hands of the law when taken by mobs, and two were taken from jails.

There were 35 instances, according to the report, when officers of the law prevented lynchings, 5 in Northern states and 30 in Southern states, yet our Northern critics say we are not attempting to enforce the law down this way. In five cases armed forces were used to prevent lynchings. A total of 69 persons, 7 whites and 62 negroes, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Study these statistics carefully and you must conclude that it was a mighty fine showing for the year.

Also, consider the fact that six of those persons lynched were charged with a crime that always means death at the end of a rope down here in the South if an indignant populace can overcome or outwit officers of the law.

The number actually lynched does not equal the number of murders committed in one day in New York or Chicago.

After studying the figures can you see any reason for a Federal statute making officers of the law or the commonwealth financially responsible to the family of the man lynched?

If so, why not also a law making officers in communities where a murder occurs financially responsible to the family of the murdered man?

During the year 1935 the state of Mississippi spent nearly $75,000 using armed troops to prevent lynchings. The amount spent during 1936 was fully $30,000.

Our officers are trying to perform their duty, but a Federal anti-lynching law would make matters infinitely worse instead of better.

It is one of the best subjects in the world to leave alone.

Incidentally, a goodly number of people are getting good pay for writing propaganda on the subject of lynching.

No sort of statute can control the indignation of a mob. The chief deterrent is fearless officers.

Murfreesboro, Tenn., News-Journal
December 28, 1936

LYNCHING, 1936

There are a few gleams of light in the dark record of lynching in the year now closing. Sixty-nine persons, seven of them white and sixty-two of them Negro, were saved from the deaths intended for them by mobs, according to the annual report of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. Thirty of the thirty-five instances in which lynchings were prevented occurred in the South.

The worst record among all the States was made in Georgia, which had five lynchings of a total of nine, two of which were in Arkansas and one each in Florida and Mississippi. All the persons lynched were Negroes.

The mob terror has been looked upon with some complacence by many white persons on account of a feeling of an immunity by virtue of color. The fact that seven of the prisoners who were saved from mob violence in 1936 were white should help to correct this impression. If there are those whose opposition to lawlessness cannot be roused except by an understanding that the mob spirit endangers their own skins, then the fact should be brought home to them that lawlessness toward the Negro is a short cry from lawlessness toward the white. This places the argument on a level where a minimum of conscience is required to comprehend it.

Six of the nine persons who were lynched this year were in the hands of officers of the law; two of them were taken from jails, and four were taken in the open. The officers who had the victims in charge either could not or would not protect them and history indicates that more often than not the latter is the case. The crime usually occurs where prevailing opinion condones it and where the officers of law enforcement are menials of prevailing opinion no matter how low its level. The development of a sense of justice in mob-ridden communities will lead to proper prosecution of mobsters, and a very little amount of rigid punishment will go a long way toward discouraging the type of men who make mobs.—Chattanooga Times.

Right Is Might

Call 1-8-37

More significant than the small number of lynchings recorded by Tuskegee in 1936—nine as compared with the 20 of 1935—is the defense of 35 prisoners from the mob by the officers of the law.

Probably the time will never come when individuals will not commit murder. But the law is not undermined thereby so long as its executives do their duty. The evil of lynching is that officials not only failed to do duty, but turned prisoners over to unauthorized persons with full knowledge that they would be put to death without trial. This changed attitude on the part of sheriffs is even more wholesome than the slackening of the mob spirit. It is law and order beating back.

An anti-lynching law is in effect, though not yet written into the statutes, when the United States has only nine mob murders in a year. The country has more sadistic killings than that, crimes of the insane and perverted. When its attitude toward lynching is thoroughly cleansed of apology and it sees the mob as the group pervert which it is, the reform will be complete.

Forty years ago a Negro editor, Mitchell of the Richmond Planet, said "Lynch law must go." Thousands have died since then at the hands of the mob. But his fight is won.

Editor Mitchell did not raise his voice in vain. Though lynching has been defended in the very halls of Congress, it is thoroughly discredited at last. It is still true that one man armed with right, can put ten thousand to flight.

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
January 3, 1937

Fewer Lynchings

The lynching record improved in 1936. The Tuskegee Institute report records nine for the year, against 20 for 1935.

Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

Savannah, Ga., News
December 30, 1936

The nation as a whole improved its record in the matter of lynchings in 1936, with a total of nine reported, but Georgia disgraced itself entirely too prominently, being credited with five of the total, or more than all the other states together. Although Georgia cast a deeper blot on its reputation, the nation showed a trend for the better over the 1935 record.

Vicksburg, Miss. Post
December 30, 1936

Lynching Statistics

F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, has sent out statistics relative to the lynchings in this county during the year. Mississippi reported a single lynching of the 9 reported.

According to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in northern states and 30 in southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 negroes, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occured and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Lynchings - 1936
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan.-Dec.

5466

McALESTER, OKLA.
NEWS CAPITAL

JAN 7 1936

THE 1935 LYNCHING RECORD

STATISTICS gathered by the Research Department of Tuskegee Institute show that 20 persons were lynched in the United States during the closing year. This is five more than the number for 1934, but eight under the 1933 record. It is twelve more than the number reported for 1932.

It is revealed that 13 of the persnos lynched were in the hands of the law. Five were taken from jails and six from officers outside of jails. Two were shot to death in jail.

It is worthy of note that no lynching occurred in Oklahoma in 1935. The record by states runs as follows: California, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 2; Louisiana, 4; Mississippi, 7; North Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 1; Texas, 2.

Of particular interest is the portion of the report whch discloses that in 53 instances involving 84 persons, 17 white and 67 negro, lynchings were prevented. Nine of these were in northern or western states and 44 in the South. In 42 instances the prisoners were removed or guards augmented while in 11 other cases armed force was used to repel attacks on prisons.

"Of the 20 persons lynched, 2 were white and 18 were negro," says the report. "The offenses charged were: murder, 7; attempted rape, 3; rape, 3; altercation with man, 1; activity in share cropper organizing, 1; attacking person, 1; taking prisnoer from offcer of the law, 1; killed by mob in search of another person, 1; slapping a woman, 1; communistic activity, 1."

WARRENSBURG, MO.
STAR JOURNAL

JAN 7 1936

20 LYNCHED 84 SAVED

The annual lynching statis[illegible] of Tuskegee Institute, one of the outstanding colored educ[illegible]onal institutions in the country, have been made public for the year 1935.

Twenty persons were lynched in the United States, seven of which were in Mississippi and all except one in California were credited to southern states. Two of the victims were white men.

An encouraging factor is that this report shows that eighty-four persons were saved by officers from possible harm at the hands of mobs, and of these sixty-seven were Negroes. This means, according to the Tuskegee figures, that in four cases out of every five in which mobs sought to injure Negroes the white officers of the law protected the Negroes.

Of the twenty lynchings one over half took place in Louisiana and Mississippi leaving only nine which occurred in other states. Florida, Georgia and Texas were the reported locations of two each and California, North Carolina and Tennessee one each. These figures indicate that public sentiment is fairly generally opposed to the crime of lynching.

The Nation NY

JAN 15 1936

TWENTY-FOUR PERSONS were lynched in 1935, according to figures—and case histories—released by the International Labor Defense. Tuskegee Institute in its annual report lists only twenty but fails to include the murder of at least four share-croppers in Tuskegee's own state of Alabama, perhaps because these killings deviated somewhat in procedure from the classic lynching formula. The class nature of lynching appears more clearly in the 1935 record—which tops 1934 by five—than ever before. The cry of rape has always hidden a class as well as a race motive. This year Tuskegee sets down activity in share-cropper organizing and "communistic activity" as the admitted causes of two lynchings; and the killings in Alabama (the figures are still incomplete because the Alabama swamps swallow up victims all too well) took place in the course of a struggle between landlords and croppers in which the landlords were all the more bitter because on the other side they saw, increasingly, white share-croppers standing with black against the common enemy. An even greater discrepancy is to be found in the two sets of figures available for deaths in connection with labor struggles. One set comes from the Labor and Socialist Press Service, the other from the I. L. D. The first gives thirty-three; the second forty-nine. The discrepancy is understandable since the facilities for gathering such statistics are necessarily limited and since the worker victims of labor battles are for the most part obscure both in life and in the manner of their dying. The figures stand like markers for the important struggles of the year: three of the victims were Southern textile workers, two were waterfront workers, two were lumber workers, seven were coal miners, and so on. And if they cannot be exact, they are nevertheless indicative of increasing tension and of a growing determination on both sides of the factory gate.

Pineville, Ky

JAN 2 1936

The Forum of the Press

The publication of communications in this column does not in any way imply editorial approval. This column is open to the public for discussion of any questions of public interest and communications are always welcomed. No nsigned communications will be ublished.

Editor The Sun:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings fo the year 1935. I find according t the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research o the Tuskegee Institute that ther were 20 persons lynched in 1935

This is 5 more than the numbe 15 for 1934; 8 less than the number 28 for 1933; and 12 more tha the number 8 for 1932. 13 of t persons lynched were in the han of the law; 5 were taken from jail 6 from officers of the law outsid of jails and 2 were shot to deat in a jail.

There were 52 instances i which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 9 of these were Northern and Western States an 44 in Southern States. In 42 o the instances the prisoners wer removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 11 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 84 persons, 17 white and 67 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 20 persons lynched, 2 were white and 18 were Negro. The offenses charged were: murder, 7; attempted rape, 3; rape, 3; altercation with man, 1; activity in share cropper organizing, 1; killed by mob in search of another person, 1; slapping a woman, 1; communistic activity, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: California, 1; Florida, 2; Georgia, 2; Louisiana 4; Mississippi, 7; North Caroli 1; Tennessee, 1; Texas, 2.

OMAHA, NEB.
Eve **WORLD HERALD**

JAN 8 1936

Victims of the Mob.

A foe note on the state of civilization in the United States is to be found in the annual report on lynching made by F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee institute. In 1935, he announces, there were 20 lynchings in this country, two of the victims being white and the rest colored.

That is not good. In the list was one lynching that took place in California, a state whose governor a few years ago publicly congratulated a mob which had taken two men from jail and killed them horribly. The rest of the lynchings occurred in the southern states, Mississippi leading with seven, followed by Louisiana with four.

A significant fact is that 13 of the victims of mob fury had to be taken from the hands of the law for the lynchers to do their work. In other words, these 13, if guilty, were safely in custody. Perhaps some of them were innocent. The seven other victims of the mob were seized and slain on suspicion.

No one can contemplate such a report with any feelings of satisfaction. The facts demonstrate how thin is the veneer which hides the beast, especially when men congregate in mobs. The bright spot in Mr. Patterson's report is to be found in the statement that during last year 53 lynchings were prevented. The mobs were checked in their mad course by officers of the law, who met the mob force with force on their part. These officers demonstrated that when the police are firm, when they assert their lawful authority by armed resistance, they can defeat the cowards that make up and control a mob. This fact may inspire other officials in the future to refuse to be weaklings when barbarism controls ordinarily decent men and women.

Nation 1-15-36
vol. 142, no. 3680
[illegible]

TWENTY-FOUR PERSONS were lynched in 1935, according to figures—and case histories—released by the International Labor Defense. Tuskegee Institute in its annual report lists only twenty but fails to include the murder of at least four share-croppers in Tuskegee's own state of Alabama, perhaps because these killings deviated somewhat in procedure from the classic lynching formula. The class nature of lynching appears more clearly in the 1935 record—which tops 1934 by five—than ever before. The cry of rape has always hidden a class as well as a race motive. This year Tuskegee sets down activity in share-cropper organizing and "communistic activity" as the admitted causes of two lynchings; and the killings in Alabama (the figures are still incomplete because the Alabama swamps swallow up victims all too well) took place in the course of a struggle between landlords and croppers in which the landlords were all the more bitter because on the other side they saw, increasingly, white share-croppers standing with black against the common enemy. An even greater discrepancy is to be found in the two sets of figures available for deaths in connection with labor struggles. One set comes from the Labor and Socialist Press Service, the other from the I. L. D. The first gives thirty-three; the second forty-nine. The discrepancy is understandable since the facilities for gathering such statistics are necessarily limited and since the worker victims of labor battles are for the most part obscure both in life and in the manner of their dying. The figures stand like markers for the important struggles of the year: three of the victims were Southern textile workers, two were waterfront workers, two were lumber workers, seven were coal miners, and so on. And if they cannot be exact, they are nevertheless indicative of increasing tension and of a growing determination on both sides of the factory gate.

New York World Telegram

JAN 14 1936

TWENTY LYNCHINGS.

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE reports that there were twenty lynchings in the United States in 1935. That is five more than in 1934.

The States that contributed to this grewsome record were:—California, one; North Carolina, one; Tennessee, one; Georgia, two; Texas, two; Florida, two; Louisiana, four; Mississippi, seven.

Of the offenses charged only seven were murder, three rape and three attempted rape. One man was lynched for an altercation with a white man, another for share-cropper union agitation, one for slapping a woman. A total of eighty-four persons were saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Does Congress need any more argument to prove that lynchings, like kidnapings, are its affair? The Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill still is pending.

KNOXVILLE, TENN.
NEWS SENTINEL

JAN 11 1936

Twenty Lynchings

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The states that contributed to this gruesome record were: California, one; North Carolina, one; Tennessee, one; Georgia, two; Texas, two; Florida, two; Louisiana, four; Mississippi, seven.

Of the offenses charged only seven were murder, three rape and three attempted rape. One man was lynched for an altercation with a white man, another for share-cropper union agitation, one for slapping a woman. A total of 84 persons were saved from death at the hands of mobs.

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Times
Quincy Fla

JAN 9 1936

20 Lynched—84 Saved.

The annual lynching statistics of Tuskeegee Institute, one of the outstanding colored educational institutions in the country, have been made public for the year 1935.

Twenty persons were lynched in the United States, seven of which were in Mississippi and all except one in California were credited to southern states. Two of the victims were white men.

An encouraging factor is that this report shows that eighty-four persons were saved by officers from possible harm at the hands of mobs, and of these sixty-seven were Negroes. This means, according to the Tuskeegee figures, that in four cases out of every five in which mobs sought to injure Negroes the white officers of the law protected the negroes.

Of the twenty lynchings one over half took place in Louisiana and Mississippi leaving only nine which occurred in other states. Florida, Georgia and Texas were the reported locations of two each and California, North Carolina and Tennessee one each. These figures indicate that public sentiment is fairly generally opposed to the crime of lynching.

San Francisco, Calif.
NEWS

JAN 10 1936

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TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE reports that there were 20 lynchings in the United States in 1935. That is five more than in 1934.

The states that contributed to this gruesome record were: California, one; North Carolina, one; Tennessee, one; Georgia, two; Texas, two; Florida, two; Louisiana, four; Mississippi, seven.

Of the offenses charged only seven were murder, three rape and three attempted rape. One man was lynched for an altercation with a white man, another for share-cropper union agitation, one for slapping a woman. A total of 84 persons were saved from death at the hands of mobs.

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Lynchings-1936

Reports on: Sent Press

Jan. - Dec.

5467

LYNCHINGS ON DECREASE IN YEAR OF 1936

Call

Tuskegee Institute Records Nine Cases; Five Occur In Georgia

1-1-37

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE.—Nine lynchings, 11 less than in 1935, occurred during the year 1936, according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute. Dr. Fred D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee, released the report this week.

Twenty persons were lynched in 1935, 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933. A steady decrease in the number of cases is shown.

Six of the persons lynched last year were in the hands of the law, two were taken from jails and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

Several Saved

All of the nine were Negroes. The offenses charged were attack, 3; attempted attack, 3; murder, 1; activity in the sharecropper strike, 1. The charge against one was not reported.

The state in which lynchings occurred were: Georgia, 5; Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1 and Mississippi, 1.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these in northern states and 30 in southern states.

In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands

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Nine Lynchings In 1936; 11 Less Than Year Before

Age

TUSKEGEE INST., Ala.—Records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute show that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936, according to President F. D. Patterson. Of the persons lynched in 1936, according to

of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

The states in which lynchings occurred were: Georgia, 5; Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1, and Mississippi, 1. All of those lynched were Negroes. There were 11 less lynchings than in 1935 when 20 persons were lynched.

Georgia Leads In Lynch Role

"Empire" State of The South Annexes Five of Nine Mob Murders in U.S., During 1936. Arkansas is Next With Two; Florida and Mississippi With One Each

A report has just been received from the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, which shows that there were nine lynchings in the United States during the year 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negroes, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share-cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynching occured and the number in each States are as follows: Arkansas 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Rock Hill, S. C. Herald
December 26, 1936

NINE LYNCHINGS RECORDED IN '36

Fewer Than In 1935 According To Tuskegee Records

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., Dec. 26.—According to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934: and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and 30 in southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi

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MOB MURDER RECORD DROP IS REPORTED

1-2-37

Tuskegee Lists 9 for

1936—Toll in Year Before Was 20

Amsterdam News

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala., Dec. 30.—Lynching took a decided drop in 1936, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said today

The educator's statement follows:

"I find, according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, that there were nine persons lynched in 1936. This is eleven less than the number twenty for 1935; six less than the number fifteen for 1934, and nineteen less than the number twenty-eight for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails, and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

"There were thirty-five instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States, and thirty in Southern States. In thirty of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of sixty-nine persons, seven white and sixty-two Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the nine persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, three; attempted rape, three; murder, one; activity in share-cropper strike, one; charge not reported, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, two; Florida, one; Georgia, five; Mississippi, one."

Chattanooga, Tenn. Times
December 28, 1936

LYNCHING, 1936.

There are a few gleams of light in the dark record of lynching in the year now closing. Sixty-nine persons, seven of them white and sixty-two of them Negro, were saved from the deaths intended for them by mobs, according to the annual report of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. Thirty of the thirty-five instances in which lynchings were prevented occurred in the South.

The worst record among all the States was made in Georgia, which had five lynchings of a total of nine, two of which were in Arkansas and one each in Florida and Mississippi. All the persons lynched were Negroes.

The mob terror has been looked upon with some complacence by many white persons on account of a feeling of an immunity by virtue of color. The fact that seven of the prisoners who were saved from mob violence in 1936 were white should help to correct this impression. If there are those whose opposition to lawlessness cannot be roused except by an understanding that the mob spirit endangers their own skins, then the fact should be brought home to them that lawlessness toward the Negro is a short cry from lawlessness toward the white. This places the argument on a level where a minimum of conscience is required to comprehend it.

Six of the nine persons who were lynched this year were in the hands of officers of the law; two of them were taken from jails, and four were taken in the open. The officers who had the victims in charge either could not or would not protect them and history indicates that more often than not the latter is the case. The crime usually occurs where prevailing opinion condones it and where the officers of law enforcement are menials of prevailing opinion no matter how low its level. The development of a sense of justice in mob-ridden communities will lead to proper prosecution of mobsters, and a very little amount of rigid punishment will go a long way toward discouraging the type of men who make mobs.

Lynching Declines

Journal and Guide
1-2-37
Norfolk, Va.

TUSKEGEE Institute's department of records reports that nine lynchings occurred during 1936, all of them in the South. Georgia lead with five, more than half of the total.

The report points out that thirty-five intended lynch victims were saved from mobs by officers of the law, which would appear to show that there is developing among law officers a stiffer resistance to mobs.

Lynching has been steadily declining since 1892, when a total of 255 persons were put to death by mobs. As late as 1908 there were 100 lynchings.

Other factors in the reduction of mob violence were the press, the pulpit, The Southern Commission on Interracial Cooperation and the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. All have done yeoman work in the cause of law and order.

It is worth while noting that since Virginia's anti-lynching law was passed in 1927 there has not been a lynching in this State. The bill was passed during Governor BYRD's administration, and was sponsored in the upper house by Senator JAMES S. BARRON, and in the lower house by Delegate VIVIAN L. PAGE, both of Norfolk.

Through joint State and Federal pressure lynching will eventually be rare in the United States. No law-abiding citizen should be satisfied, however, until it is entirely wiped out.

ON OUR CONSCIENCE.

News
12-31-36
Greensboro, N.C.

Nine persons, all negroes, all in the southern states, were lynched during the year which closes today. And for our own section of the country the Daily News holds these to be nine or about as black welts as mar the 1936 sheet. But an analysis of the report made by Tuskegee institute does leave a little brightness.

Let it be said first, not with any sense of boastfulness for we remember other years, that North Carolina was not on the list of shame this year. Georgia with five mob sacrifices, Arkansas with two, Florida and Mississippi with one each, constitute the inglorious record. But here is where the hope lies. The total for the year is 11 less than for 1935; six less than for 1934 and 19 less than for 1933. Regardless of the lack of uniformity in the figures there seems to be a diminishing.

And this diminishing is observed to be directly proportionate to the number of efforts made to prevent lynchings. In sixty-nine cases officers of the law either by moving their prisoners to places of safety or by use of armed force in repelling mobs saved as many lives. That there seems to be increased effort to prevent such public crimes is to be taken as a satisfying thought along with the less palatable suggestion of more attempts to commit them.

Nobody will attempt, we believe, to connect the lynching problem with political dictatorships but a strange co-incidence develops with the release of the 1936 report. In the year that Huey Long was big boss in Louisiana that state had four lynchings. It had none this year. Nobody has indicted Eugene Talmadge with any responsibility for the five atrocities within his state this year but the public will not forget that it was during the same twelve months that he was accused of using racial prejudices to further his own political ambitions. And a section that has on its conscience the lives of nine helpless black men will be permitted to draw whatever conclusions it cares to draw from that evidence.

Columbia, S. C. Record
December 28, 1936

Only Nine Persons Lynched In '36, Says Tuskegee Report

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28.—(AP)—Fewer persons—nine—have been lynched in 1936 than in any of the last four years, Dr. F. D. Patterson president of Tuskegee Institute said today.

All of the 1936 victims, a report from the institute's department of records and research said, were negroes, and all were killed in the south.

Officers saved 35 from mobs, the report continued, 30 in southern and five in northern states. Armed force was used against five mobs, Dr. Patterson said, and prisoners were removed or guards augmented to forestall mass action in other cases.

Lynch totals for previous years were announced as 20 in 1935; 15 in 1934, and 28 in 1933.

Offenses charged against lynch victims this year were: rape 3; attempted rape 3; activity in sharecropper strike 1, and charge not reported 1.

Lynching by states:
Georgia 5; Arkansas 8; Florida 1; Mississippi 1.

Raleigh, N. C. Observer
December 29, 1936

NOTABLE DECREASE IN LYNCHING TOTAL

Fewer Lynchings in 1936

Than in Any of Last Four Years; None in State

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28.—(AP)—Fewer persons—nine—have been lynched in 1936 than in any of the last four years, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said today.

All of the 1936 victims, a report from the institute's department of records and research said, were Negroes, and all were killed in the South.

Officers saved 35 from mobs, the report continued, 30 in Southern and five in Northern states. Armed force was used against five mobs, Dr. Patterson said, and prisoners were removed or guards augmented to forestall mass action in other cases.

Lynch totals for previous years were announced as 20 in 1935; 15 in 1934, and 28 in 1933.

Offenses charged against lynch victims this year were: Rape 3; attempt rape 3; murder 1; activity in sharecropper strike 1, and charge not reported 1.

Lynching by states:
Georgia 5; Arkansas 2; Florida 1; Mississippi 1.

Andalusia, Ala., Star
December 31, 1936

Only Nine Persons Lynched In 1936

According to the records complied in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 9 persons lynched in 1935. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of the jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augemented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 negroes, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 2; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Lanett, Ala. Times
December 30, 1936

1936 Lynchings Reported By Tuskegee Institute

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 negroes, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share-cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Eatonton, Ga., Messenger
December 31, 1936

FEWER LYNCHINGS SHOWN IN SURVEY

There were nine persons lynched in the United States during the year of 1936 according to information compiled by the Department of Records and Reasearch of the Tuskeegee Institute. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; six less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Of these persons, six were taken from the hands of the law; two from the jails, and six from officers outside o the jail.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 o fthe instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 30 of the instances the prisoners force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negroes were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Lynchings-1936
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan.-Dec.

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Columbus, Ga. Enquirer-Sun
December 29, 1936

Sharp Reduction Shown In Lynchings Last Year

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28 —(AP) — The return of prosperity, better racial relations and excellent work by law enforcement agencies were given today by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, as prime factors in the sharp reduction in lynchings in 1936.

The institute's department of records and research announced deaths from mob violence dropped to nine, all negroes and all in southern states, this year as compared to 20 in 1935, 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933.

Dr. Patterson said "the return of better business conditions removed a feeling of unrest, which is more apt to lead to violence than under ordinary conditions."

"Better racial feeling and better understanding, both promoted by continuous educational campaigns, also contributed to the better showing," he said.

Lynchings reported by the institute, by states:

Georgia 5; Arkansas 2; Florida 1; Mississippi 1.

Twenty-five persons were saved from possible mob action, the report said, including five in northern states. Armed force was used in five instances.

In Atlanta, Dr. R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the commission on interracial cooperation commented, "the decrease in the number of lynchings is a distinctly encouraging thing.

"It is obviously due to the educational campaigns being carried on by the churches, newspapers and various organizations. Officers are responding to enlightened public opinion, and doing a great deal more to prevent lynching."

Lynchburg, Va., Advance
January 4, 1937

LYNCHING RECORDS

Lynching records compiled by Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, are regarded as the most accurate statistics kept. For the year 1936, the institution announces that nine lynchings occurred, the smallest number for any year but one since efforts were begun to keep a careful check on the crime. In 1932 there were only eight lynchings.

The Baltimore Evening Sun professes to see some connection between the lynching record and economic conditions. While the lynching curve doesn't always exactly follow the economic curve, our contemporary says that the trends are so frequently similar that lynchings may, in some measure, reflect economic dispair. Presenting its argument, the Evening Sun says:

"In 1890, for instance, when things were going pretty well, the number of lynchings, which had been running in the hundreds, was brought down to 96; but in 1894, when hard times had gripped the country, it rose again to 192. By 1902, when the depression was over, the number sank again to 92, and by 1907 it had been brought down to 60; but in 1908, a bitterly hard year, especially in the South, saw 97 lynchings. By 1914 the number had come down to 47; but then the war panic prostrated the South for months, and in 1915 there were 75 lynchings. Thereafter the number declined pretty steadily until 1929, when there were 10. Apparently, here was an exception to the rule, for, despite the crash, lynchings continued to decline until 1932, when there were only 8; the next year, though, saw a sudden resurgence of the crime, with 28. In 1934, with relief getting in its work, there were 15; in 1935, 16, and this year, with prosperity swiftly increasing, 9."

Perhaps there is some connection between lynchings and economic conditions. However, it seems to us that other more important factors are involved in mob killings. Efficient and courageous law officers and quick and effective punishment for those charged with serious crimes constitute two bulwarks against lynchings. Where law enforcement is weak and where courts are slow to bring offenders to justice, mob rule is likely to break out in all of its brutality, and the economic situation will have little influence. It might be pertinent to point out that in 1932 the depression was at its most disastrous depth but in that dark year the number of lynchings was the lowest on record. In other years of the economic disturbance, there was an increase in lynchings but the nation's most wide-spread depression in many decades did not produce anywhere close to the number of lynchings that occurred in other periods of economic hardship.

Economic conditions may play a part in the country's lynching record but we cannot believe they are more than a minor factor.

Asheboro, N. C. Courier
December 31, 1936

9 Lynchings Were Reported In 1936

Decline From 20 In 1935 Laid To Better Race Relations, Prosperity

Five In Georgia

All Victims Were Negroes; All Lynchings Occurred In Southern States

Lynchings in the United States in 1936 dropped to nine, according to the report of Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research. Dr. F. D. Patterson, Tuskegee's president ascribed the considerable reduction in deaths by mob violence to better race relations as well as the return of prosperity and excellent work by law enforcement agencies.

In all 1936 lynchings the victims were negroes, and all occurred in Southern states. There were less than half as many as last year, however. In that year there were 20; in 1934, 15; and in 1933, 28.

Dr. Patterson said "the return of better business conditions removed a feeling of unrest, which is more apt to lead to violence than under ordinary conditions."

"Better racial feeling and better understanding, both promoted by continuous educational campaigns also contributed to the better showing," he added.

"The fine attitude of government officials and law enforcement agencies, such as the prompt and fearless action of Governor Bibb Graves of Alabama in several instances, ended several threatening situations.

"We hope, and have reason to believe, this trend away from mob action will continue."

Lynchings reported by the institute, by states:

Georgia 5, Arkansas 2, Florida 1, Mississippi 1.

Thirty-five persons were saved from possible mob action, the report said, including five in northern states. Armed force was used in five instances.

In Atlanta, Dr. R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the commission on interracial co-operation, termed the decrease in the number of lynchings "a distinctly encouraging thing."

"It is obviously due to the educational campaigns being carried on by the churches, newspapers and various organizations," Eleazer said. "Officers are responding to enlightened public opinion, and doing a great deal more to prevent lynching."

Mobile, Ala., Register
December 29, 1936

Sharp Reduction In Lynchings Seen During Past Year

Return Of Prosperity And Better Racial Feelings Listed As Prime Factors

By The Associated Press

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28.—The return of prosperity, better racial relations and excellent work by law enforcement agencies were given today by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, as prime factors in the sharp reduction in lynchings in 1936.

The institute's department of records and research announced deaths from mob violence dropped to nine, all negroes and all in Southern states, this year as compared to 20 in 1935, 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933.

Better Racial Feeling

Dr. Patterson said "the return of better business conditions removed a feeling of unrest, which is more apt to lead to violence than under ordinary conditions."

"Better racial feeling and better understanding, both promoted by continuous educational campaigns, also contributed to the better showing," he said.

"The fine attitude of government officials and law enforcement agencies, such as the prompt and fearless action of Gov. Bibb Graves of Alabama in several instances, ended several threatening situations," Dr. Patterson said.

Georgia Leads

"We hope, and have reason to believe," he said, "this trend away from mob action will continue."

Lynchings reported by the institute by states:

Georgia, 5; Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Mississippi, 1.

Thirty-five persons were saved from possible mob action, the report said, including five in Northern states. Armed force was used in five instances.

Increase Said Encouraging

In Atlanta, Dr. R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the commission of inter-racial co-operation, said "the decrease in the number of lynchings is a distinctly encouraging thing.

"It is obviously due to the educational campaigns being carried on by the churches, newspapers and various organizations. Officers are responding to enlightened public opinion, and doing a great deal more to prevent lynching."

West Blocton, Ala., Enterprise
December 31, 1936

LYNCHING RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1936

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 27.—According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in the Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share croppers strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georga, 5; Mississ-ippi, 1.

Nine Persons Died At Hands Of Lynchers During 1936

According To The Records Of The Tuskegee Institute Department Of Research

GEORGIA LED IN NUMBER OF LYNCHINGS

69 Persons Saved From Frenzied Mobs By Courageous Officers Of The Law

Tuskegee, Ala., December 31. —According to records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern states and 30 in Southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the other 5 instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1 Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., TIMES
DEC. 28, 1936 D31

LYNCHING, 1936.

There are a few gleams of light in the dark record of lynching in the year now closing. Sixty-nine persons, seven of them white and sixty-two of them Negro, were saved from the deaths intended for them by mobs, according to the annual report of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. Thirty of the ~~thirty-five instances~~ in which lynchings were prevented occurred in the South.

The worst record among all the States was made in Georgia, which had five lynchings of a total of nine, two of which were in Arkansas and one each in Florida and Mississippi. All the persons lynched were Negroes.

The mob terror has been looked upon with some complacence by many white persons on account of a feeling of an immunity by virtue of color. The fact that seven of the prisoners who were saved from mob violence in 1936 were white should help to correct this impression. If there are those whose opposition to lawlessness cannot be roused except by an understanding that the mob spirit endangers their own skins, then the fact should be brought home to them that lawlessness toward the Negro is a short cry from lawlessness toward the white. This places the argument on a level where a minimum of conscience is required to comprehend it.

Six of the nine persons who were lynched this year were in the hands of officers of the law; two of them were taken from jails, and four were taken in the open. The officers who had the victims in charge either could not or would not protect them and history indicates that more often than not the latter is the case. The crime usually occurs where prevailing opinion condones it and where the officers of law enforcement are menials of prevailing opinion no matter how low its level. The development of a sense of justice in mob-ridden communities will lead to proper prosecution of mobsters, and a very little amount of rigid punishment will go a long way toward discouraging the type of men who make mobs.

Covington, Tenn. Leader
December 31, 1936

LYNCHINGS DECLINE FOR THE YEAR 1936

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were nine persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; six less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Of the persons lynched, six were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails, and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern states and 30 in Southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, seven white and 62 negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were negroes. The offences charged were: Rape, three; attempted rape, three; murder, one; activity in sharecropper strike, one; charge not reported, one.

The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, two; Florida, one: Georgia, five; Mississippi, one.

Augusta, Ga. Herald
December 28, 1936

ONLY 9 LYNCHINGS LISTED FOR YEAR

TUSKEGEE, Ala. Dec. 28— (AP) — Fewer persons — nine — have been lynched in 1936 than in any of the last four years, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said today.

All nine of the victims, a report from the institute's department of records and research said, were negroes, and all were killed in the South.

Officers saved 35 from mobs, the report continued, 30 in Southern and five in Northern States. Armed force was used against five mobs, Dr. Patterson said.

Lynch totals for previous years were announced as 20 in 1935; 15 in 1934, and 28 in 1933.

Lynching by States: Georgia 5; Arkansas 2; Florida 1; Mississippi 1.

All Mob Murders Took Place in Southern States

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama—According to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute there were nine persons lynched in 1936. This is eleven less than the number (twenty) for 1935; six less than the number (fifteen) for 1934; and nineteen less than the number (twenty-eight) for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were thirty-five instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and thirty in southern states. In thirty of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of sixty-nine persons, seven white and sixty-two Negroes, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses chargd were: Rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in sharecropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

LYNCHING REPORT OF 1936 EXCLUDES "MYSTERY" CASES

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 31—(Special) —Statisticians compilng records on a survey made during the year 1936 report that nine persons were lynched in the United States, all of whom were members of the Negro race. This report, of course, is incomplete. It merely tells of the known black people who were lynched.

It is not unusual for black men and women to be shot for the most trivial offense in the deep south without any report being made beyond the immediate authorities of the county. These lynchings never reach the Associated Press. They are stifled and asuppressed by county and city authorities

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Alexander City, Ala., Outlook
December 31, 1936

Alabama Clear In Lynching, 1936

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28, 1936.

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1936. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Yours very truly,
F. D. PATTERSON, President.

Columbia, S. C. State
January 1, 1937

The Lynching Record.

Another thing to be thankful for: Lynchings for the year were markedly fewer than in the year before. Indeed, they probably established the low record for a generation. And there was not one black mark chalked up against South Carolina.

This is not the first time South Carolina has had a clean slate. Could not Georgia be inspired to emulate this scoreless record? The "Empire State of the South" should not have to record that among its "firsts" is the number of murders by mobs.

Lynchings-1936
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan.-Dec.

5469

Tuskegee Report On Mob Violence Being Questioned

Tribune

1-16-37

NEW YORK—The growing annual conflict between different agencies reporting the number of lynchings in America during a given year was brought to sharp focus last week when President James Franklin Lane of Lane College, Jackson, Tenn., openly questioned the accuracy of the Tuskegee report of 19[illegible], which showed four lynchings less than the report of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Exclusive Statement

In an exclusive statement to Calvin's Newspaper Service which sent out a query to leading educators which contained a copy of the Tuskegee report as published by the New York Herald Tribune, President Lane said:

"I have just read the report on the subject of lynching that you were kind enough to send me as given to the public at large by the Bureau of Records at the Tuskegee Institte of Alabama. If I could make myself believe the report as given is really true and those figurs reflect the actual condition with regards to this great American crime, I would feel much encouraged over the situations as it exists in the contry.

Doubts Tuskegee

"Years ago, I read these reports with much satisfaction as well as interest; but now the interest is there, but satisfaction does not exist. I sill have respect for the efforts made by the Director of the Bureau at Tuskegee. I think he is perfectly honest and faithful in the matter of compiling and keeping the records of lynching; but I have reasons to question the accuracy of the data as furnished the Bureau."

Chipley, Fla Banner

DEC 31 1936

Reduction In Lynchings During Past Year

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec.—The

return of prosperity, better racial relations and excellent work by law enforcement agencies were given today by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, as prime factors in the sharp reduction in lynchings in 1396.

The institute's department of records and research announced deaths from mob violence dropped to nine, all negroes and all in Southern states, this year as compared to 20 in 1935, 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933.

Dr. Patterson said "the return of better business conditions removed a feeling of unrest, which is more apt to lead to violence than under ordinary conditions."

"Better racial feeling and better understanding, both promoted by continuous educational campaigns, also contributed to the better showing," he said.

"The fine attitude of government officials and law enforcement agencies, such as the prompt and fearless action of Gov. Bibl Graves of Alabama in several instances, ended several threatening situations," Dr. Patterson said.

"We hope, and have reason to believe," he said, "this trend away from mob action will continue."

Lynchings reported by the institute by states:

Georgia, 5; Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Mississippi, 1.

Thirty-five persons were saved from possible mob action, the report said, including five in Northern states. Armed force was used in five instances.

In Atlanta, Dr. R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the commission of inter-racial co-operation said "the decrease in the number of lynchings is a distinctly encouraging thing.

"It is obviously due to the educational campaigns being carried on by the churches, newspapers and various organizations. Officers are responding to enlightened public opinion, and doing a great deal more to prevent lynching."

Bridgeton, N.J. Eve News

DEC 30 1936

Lynching Record

Lynchings in the country made a creditable decrease this year as compared with previous years. The records compiled by the Tuskegee Institute, which makes a specialty of recording lynchings, show that only nine persons have been railroaded to punishment this year, as compared with 20 last year and 28 in 1933. All of those lynched were Negroes and five of the nine lynchings occurred in Georgia, which is supposed to be the most enlightened of all the southern states. This record does not speak very well for Georgia's faith in the law.

The bright page in this lynching record is the fact that officers of the law were true to their oaths in 35 cases, protecting their prisoners and maintaining the majesty of the law, and 30 of these cases were in the South, five in the North. In repelling these mob attacks, 69 persons were saved from violence and the law permitted to take its course.

This devotion to duty speaks well for the officers but not so well for the respect for law of those making up the mobs.

The unreasonableness of this mob spirit is shown in the fact that in almost every instance the crimes of which the culprits were guilty would have insured their conviction and punishment under the law.

Torrington, Conn Register

DEC 29 1936

Fewer Lynchings

To the Editor of The Register:

Sir:

I send you the folowing information concerning lynchings for the year 1936. I find according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in northern states and 30 in southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi 1.

Yours very truly,
F. D. Patterson,
President

Tuskegee Institute
Alabama Dec 23 1936

Savannah, Ga., News
January 5, 1937

The Lynching Record.

Columbia State: Another thing to be thankful for: Lynchings for the year were markedly fewer than in the year before. Indeed, they probably established the low record for a generation. And there was not one black mark chalked up against South Carolina.

This is not the first time South Carolina has had a clean slate. Could not Georgia be inspired to emulate this scoreless record? The "Empire State of the South" should not have to record that among its "firsts" is the number of murders by mobs.

Butler, Ga., Herald
January 7, 1937

HALF OF LYNCHINGS OCCUR IN GEORGIA

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 26.—More than half of the lynchings in the United States during the year just closed occurred in Georgia, according to the figures of the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute.

The records show there were nine lynchings, all negroes, five of which occurred in Georgia. The total number of lynchings was 11 below the figure for 1935, which was 20.

Besides Georgia, lynchings occurred in the following states: Arkansas 2; Florida 1; Mississippi 1.

Louisville, Miss. Journal
January 1, 1937

NINE LYNCHINGS THE PAST YEAR

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28. — The department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute revealed that there were nine persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933.

Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails, and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were negroes. Offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; and charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia 5; and Mississippi, 1.

BRYAN TEX., WK EAGLE
DEC. 30, 1936

1936 LYNCHING RECORD IS BEST IN FOUR YEARS

Statistics compiled at Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, Alabama, on lynchings show that there were nine cases in 1936, the lowest number in several years.

This figure compares with 20 for 1935, 15 for 1934 and 28 for 1933. Of the persons lynched six were in the hands of the law, two being taken from jails and four from officers outside of jails.

Honea Path, S. C. Chronicle
January 7, 1937

Nine Persons Are Lynched in 1936

Recent reports show that 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number of 20 for 1935 6 less than the number of 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number of 28 for 1933.

Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails, and 1 form officers of the law out side of jails.

There were thirty five instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and thirty in Southern states. In thirty of the instnaces the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the other five instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of sixty persons. seven white and sixty-two negro were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the nine person lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape 3; attempted rape, 3; murder. 1; activity in share cropper strike 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occured and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas. 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5 and Missippi, 1.

Starkville, Miss. News
January 1, 1937

9 LYNCHINGS ARE RECORDED IN 1936

All Are Negroes; Mississippi Has One, Georgia Five

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research, of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934 and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia,5; Mississippi, 1.

Elberton, Ga., Star
January 5, 1937

ONLY NINE LYNCHINGS

According to the Tuswegee Institute annual bulletin on the subject, only 9 persons were lynched in the United States last year, the smallest number in any year except one since records have been kept, that being in 1932, when there were only 8 lynchings.

All 9 persons lynched in 1936 were negroes, and the offenses charged were: Rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1. Lynchings occurred in the following states: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Figures compiled at Tuskegee indicate that officers of the law saved 69 persons from death at the hands of mobs during the year, and of this number 7 were white.

The crime of lynching has greatly decreased in recent years, due largely to increased vigilance on the part of officers of the law, and especially through prompt removal of certain classes of suspected criminals to more secure prisons at a considerable distance from the localities where these crimes were committed.

Lynching in the United States reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white. During the last five years lynchings have occurred as follows: In 1932, 8; in 1933, 28; in 1934, 15; in 1935, 20; in 1936, 9.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and is a reflection upon any community in which it occurs. No good citizen will participate in or condone mob murder.—

Greensboro, N.C. News
1-2-37

Lynching and Hard Times.

Tuskegee Institute announces that only nine lynchings have taken place in 1936, the smallest number for any year but one since the records began to be kept carefully. The one exception was 1932, when there were only eight lynchings.

This is probably an indication of, among other things, returning prosperity. The lynching curve doesn't follow the economic curve exactly, but closely enough to indicate strongly that lynching is, in some measure, a reflection of economic despair.

In 1890, for instance, when things were going pretty well, the number of lynchings, which had been running in the hundreds, was brought down to [illegible], but in 1894, when hard times had gripped the country, it rose again to 192. By 1902, when the depression was over, the number sank again to 92, and by 1907 it had been brought down to 60; but 1908, a bitterly hard year, especially in the south, saw 97 lunchings. By 1914 the number had come down to 47; but then the war panic prostrated the south for months, and in 1915 there were 75 lynchings. Thereafter the number declined pretty steadily until 1929, when there were 10. Apparently, here was an exception to the rule, for, despite the crash, lynchings continued to decline until 1932, when there were only 8; the next year, though, saw a sudden resurgence of the crime, with 28. In 1934, with relief getting in its work, there were 15; in 1935, 16, and this year, with prosperity swiftly increasing, 9.

Here is certainly a strong indication that when people on the lowest economic levels are in the grip of black despair they tend to take it out on negroes and other more or less helpless victims.—Baltimore Evening Sun.

Plainfield, N. J. Courier News
DEC 29 1936

Fewer Persons Lynched During 1936

Tuskegee, Ala. —(AP)— Fewer persons—nine—have been lynched in 1936 in the United States than in any of the last four years, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said yesterday.

All the 1936 victims, a report from the institute's department of records and research said, were Negroes, and all were killed in the South.

Lynch totals for recent years were announced at 20 in 1935, 15 in 1934, and 28 in 1933.

AMARILLO TEX. NEWS
DEC. 29, 1936

FEWER PERSONS ARE LYNCHED IN U. S.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28 (AP)—Fewer persons — nine — have been lynched in 1936 in the United States than in any of the last four years Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said today.

All the 1936 victims, a report from the institute's department of records and research said, were negroes and all were killed in the South.

Lynching by states: Georgia 5: Arkansas 2: Florida 1: Mississippi 1

Ala City Ala Observer
DEC. 31, 1936 J6

Fewer persons—nine—have been lynched in 1936 than in any of the last four years, according to an announcement by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute. Five of these lynchings occured in Georgia, 2 in Arkansas and 1 each in Florida and Mississippi.

PIERCE, NEB., LEADER
DEC. 31, 1936 J8

Tuskegee Institute

Tuskegee Institute, an institution for the education of negroes, was established in 1881 by an act of the Alabama legislature under the name of Tuskegee State Normal school. It was opened July 4, 1881.

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ugusta, Ga. Herald
January 6, 1937

GEORGIA UGLY SPOT

THE president of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama gives improved business conditions credit for the decline in lynchings in 1936. The lynching figures showed nine for the year, as compared with 20 in 1935, 15 in 1934, and 28 in 1933.

Georgia, we regret to say, was the dark spot on the lynching map. This state furnished five of the nine instances of mob violence for the year.

Surely it is not too much to hope that the nation's lynching record will be further reduced in 1937, and that Georgia will set an example by keeping the state entirely clean for the year.

Lawrenceburg, Tenn. News
Jan. 7, 1937

Only Nine Lynchings

According to the Tuskegee Institute annual bulletin on the subject, only 9 persons were lynched in the United States last year, the smallest number in any year except one since records have been kept, that being 1932, when there were only 8 lynchings.

All 9 persons lynched in 1936 were Negroes, and the offenses charged were: Rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1. Lynchings occurred in the following states: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Figures compiled at Tuskegee indicate that officers of the law saved 69 persons from death at the hands of mobs during the year, and of this number 7 were white.

The crime of lynching has greatly decreased in recent years, due largely to increased vigilance on the part of officers of the law, and especially through prompt removal of certain classes of suspected criminals to more secure prisons at a considerable distance from the localities where these crimes were committed.

Lynching in the United States reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white. During the last five years lynchings have occurred as follows: In 1932, 8; in 1933, 28; in 1934, 15; in 1935, 20; in 1936, 9.

The resort of lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and is a reflection upon any community in which it occurs. No good citizen will participate in or condone mob murder.

Lynchings-1936
Reports on, Sent Press.

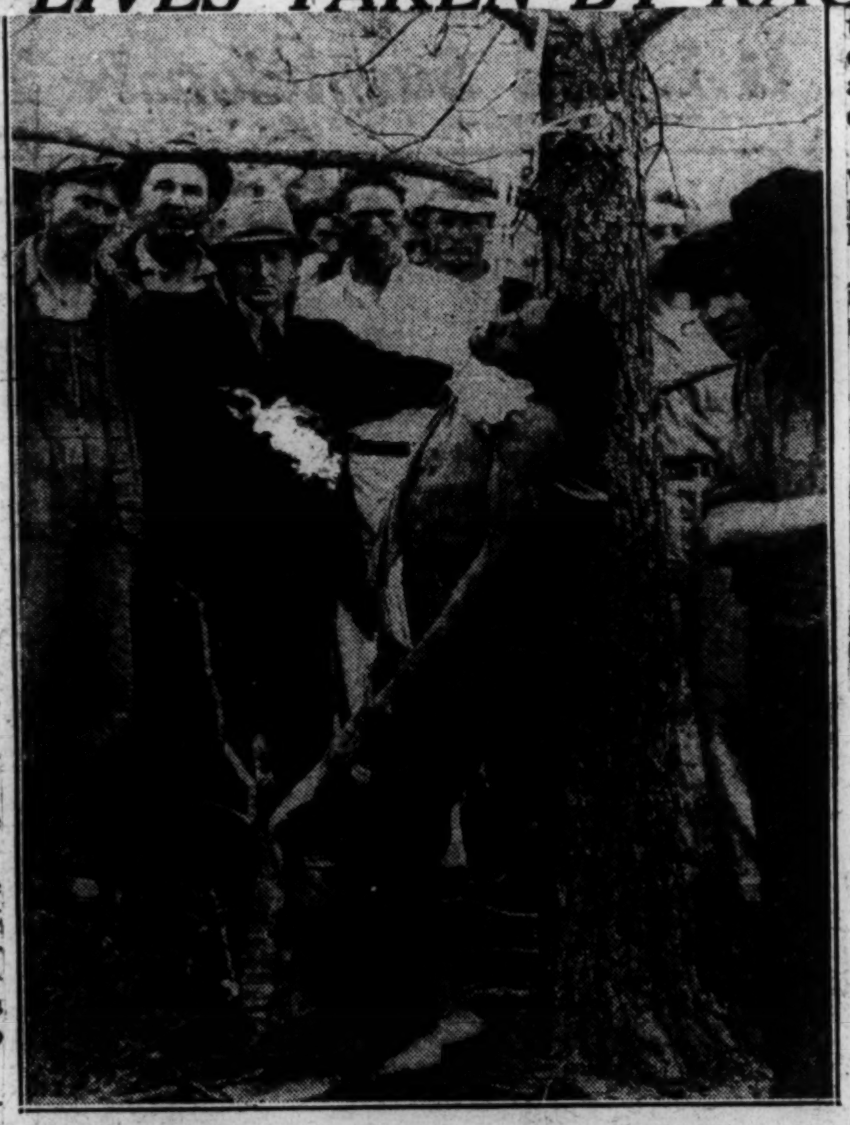
Jan.-Dec.

5470

Judge Lynch Less Busy

Bridgeport, Conn.
JAN 3 1937
Herald

ONLY NINE LIVES TAKEN BY RACE-MAD MOBS



A LYNCHING—the morning after, as shame and defiance mingle in the faces of the curious, come to see the mob's victim.

FROM the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute in Alabama, founded by that unusual negro, Booker T. Washington, who understood that the solution, if any, of the problem of racial relationship between blacks and whites lay in educating the blacks, came the other day the matter of fact and unemotional annual report on lynchings.

Cold statistics from a negro source on hotblooded and grisly lynchings are incongruous and impressive.

Here's the record of lynchings for 1936, compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee institute.

Nine persons were strung up.

This is 11 less than the number of 20 for 1933.

Does this mean that the free, educated, intelligent white population of the United States of America is becoming more civilized or was the lessened number of mob murders a matter of luck?

Of the nine negroes lynched last year, six were in the hands of the law when seized, two were removed from jails and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

On the happier side, also according to the Tuskegee institute, in 1936 there were 35 cases in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of the negroes thus saved were living in northern states and 30 in southern states.

Apparently, even though there has been a marked improvement, to many southerners a nigger is a nigger and a dead nigger is better than a bad nigger and the means or method to put him to death are comparatively unimportant.

In the 30 cases down south of the prevention of lynchings, the prisoners were removed from the besieged jails or guards were increased.

In five instances armed forces had to be called out to repel would-be lynchers.

A total of 69 people, seven white and 62 negroes, were saved from being murdered by infuriated mobs.

Of the grim total of nine, who were lynched last year, all were negroes.

The offenses charged against them were in the cases of three, rape; in the cases of another three, attempted rape; in the case of one, murder; in the case of another, activity in a share cropper strike.

The alleged offense for which the ninth black man paid with his life is not known.

The states in which lynchings were committed and the number in each are:

Arkansas	Two
Florida	One
Georgia	Five
Mississippi	One

The dubious badge of honor of leading the states in lynchings must therefore go to the proud state of Georgia.

Like most sensitive peoples, Americans recoil from tales of horror from abroad.

Pogroms in Poland, crucifixions in Spain, agonized deaths in detention camps in Germany—these outrage our complacent equanimity.

Lynchings, however, until fairly recently and even today, we continue to take as a matter of course, setting them down as a playful idiosyncrasy of our southern cousins.

'Got to keep the nigger in his place, you know, and the best way of doing it is to string one of them to a tree once in a while!"

A long drawn out, slow tedious process of propaganda, directed against the crime of lynching, by the Tuskegee institute and other groups, established to improve the lot of American negroes, is having its effect.

Lynchings are not as popular or safe as they were.

The case of one negro, who was murdered for reported activity in connection with a share cropper strike, throws a revealing light on the racia problem in the south.

That problem is basically economic.

Southerners fought gallantly during the Civil war because they believed that economic salvation depended upon the perpetuation of slavery.

Their bread and butter and homes were being cowardly attacked by the abolitionists and they fought to preserve them.

In attempts by some share-cropping blacks to wrest wage and working conditions approximating decency from white landlords, these negroes must fight the same fight again.

The Civil war was supposed to have ended slavery of the blacks, but it didn't.

Economic phases of the Civil war are being fought and will continue to be fough for some years.

The picture of a typica lynching is not difficult to draw.

A woman or a girl has been raped or an attempt has been made to rape her. A negro somewhere in the section has disappeared from his usual haunts. He may have gone to town, or he may have gone fishing, or he may have been on a drunk. When found, he is seized and tossed into jail.

Public fury runs high. The woman or girl is questioned. She is overwrought, perhaps temporarily insane. She is asked if negro Jim or Joe committed the crime. Whether she says yes or no, the mob leaders take it for granted she said yes.

A gang screaming for blood surrounds the jail.

The sheriff or the deputy has no desire to estrange his neighbors who are voters. He orders the mob off but not too forcefully.

He goes home to supper or to a neighbor's house for a swig of corn likker.

When he returns, the jail has been broken into and the negro seized.

A short, shrieking march to a convenient tree, the negro is lashed, blood lust boils over, the noose is drawn around his neck, the other end tossed over a tree branch. He is hoisted up.

Then bullets are fired into him while the crowd dances and shouts.

Children are hoisted onto the shoulders of their fathers or mothers so that the fierce joy of the perverted righteousness of making a horrible example may be glimpsed.

The next morning, a broken and crisp corpse! A group of 50 to 100 or several hundred guilty but cocky whites with a bitter taste in their mouths.

AMERICAN JUSTICE? That should be spelled in big letters.

The whole subject is a damning indictment, but, fortunately if only temporarily, the record of lynchings grows less.

Willimantic, Conn DEC 28 1936 Chronicle

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

Tuskegee Institute, Ala.,
December 26, 1936

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1936. I find according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were nine persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; six less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails, and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and 30 in southern states.

Decline in Lynching

Weekly

1-16-37

DR. F. D. PATTERSON, President of Tuskegee, makes his report on the year's lynching crop. The institute's Department of Records and Research gives the following report:

Nine men were killed in the South during the past year. All were Negroes. New Orleans

Officers saved 35 persons from the mobs; 30 of these cases were in Southern states and five in Northern.

Armed force was used against five mobs, and prisoners were removed or guards augmented to forestall mob-rule in other cases.

Lynchings by states: Georgia, 5; Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Mississippi, 1.

Lynch totals for previous years: 1935, 20; 1934, 15; 1933, 28.

Charges against lynch victims: Rape, attempted rape, activities in sharecropper strike, and some charges unreported.

One thing to be pointed out is that rape charges still constitute the major charge against Negroes. It appears from these records that our own state of Louisiana had clean hands during 1936. Rape charges ofttimes involve one-sided evidence.

That these men whose lives were snuffed out, without any semblance of justice, did not wish to die in any manner is certain. That their innocence or guilt was a matter of the courts and proper judicial procedure is equally certain. The states in which were allowed these crimes against civil justice should be censured in the highest possible terms. Of course, five of these lynchings "just happened" in the boundaries of "law and order" of Chain-gang Georgia.

Ride on, O Justice, with unblinded eyes—
There is still work to do!

THE TUSKEGEE RECORD

Globe 1-16-37 Nashville Tenn

There has been a belief in many quarters that Tuskegee Institute "leans backward" in its purpose to be conservative when making an annual report of the number of lynchings in the United States. The research department of the institute this year reports that there were nine lynchings in 1936. This is four less than the number 13 reported by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and 11 less than the 20 reported by the Crusader News Service. Accuracy of the Tuskegee report is questioned also by President J. F. Lane President of Lane College, in a statement he is releasing to the press this week. It is probable that Tuskegee Institute compiles its report from data gleaned from daily newspapers, which is not a safe guide because of the fact that often actual lynchings in some sections of the country are not published, while certain killings which rightly should be called lynchings are not recorded as such. Time and again independent investigations have unearthed instances of lynchings which newspapers of the community failed to publish. Lane College's wide-awake President brings this fact to our attention in his statement this week.

WATERBURY, CONN. AMERICAN
JAN 2 1937

ONLY NINE LYNCHINGS IN 1936.

Only nine lynchings were allowed to take place in all of the United States this year, according to the records of the Tuskegee institute, up to Dec. 27. It is the most creditable showing the nation has ever made, with respect to this particular form of crime, since an effort to compile complete records concerning it was first made, more than 50 years ago. The nearest previous approach to this year's encouraging minimum was achieved seven years ago, when the recorded number of consummated lynchings was held down to 10. The following year, there were more than twice as many—21. In 1933, there were 28; in 1934, only 15; and in 1935, 20.

It is still more encouraging to note that the comparatively good record of this year has been due directly ot the firmness of the legally constituted authorities in many instances in which mobs attempted to take the law into their own hands and were thwarted. On no less than 30 occasions, in the Southern states, according to Tuskegee's department of records and rese~~arch, priso~~ners who had been threatened with mob vengeance were opportunely removed to safer places of confinement or surrounded by extra guards. In five additional instances, mobs were dispersed by armed force. The whole number of persons thus saved from death by mob murder was 69, of whom 62 were colored.

Of the 14 Southern or border states, 10 have gone through the year with a stainless record; and among them are Alabama, South Carolina, Louisiana, and Texas, which have often before been notoriously preeminent for their failure to keep mobs in check. This year, the worst record of all has fallen to the lot of Georgia, with five mob atrocities entered against her name. Arkansas is next, with two, and Florida and Mississippi have each witnessed only one.

Favorable circumstances, not popular self-restraint, evidently have been the major factors in keeping the record from growing much worse; but since the average number of lynchings per year has declined from more than 40 within the past 14 years, the Southern authorities may be credited with an increasing wholesome resolution to control the circumstances in such cases, to the greater glory of their respective states.

TOPEKA. KAS., CAPITAL
DEC. 31, 1936

Lynchings in the United States.

President F. D. Patterson, head of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, of Tuskegee, Alabama, sends us the following information concerning lynchings and attempted lynchings in the United States:

According to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, there were nine persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than for 1935; six less than for 1934; and 19 less than for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails, and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern states and 30 in Southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, seven white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi. 1.

This report of President Patterson is both encouraging and discouraging. It is encouraging in that it shows a decrease in the number of lynchings as compared with the year 1935. It is further encouraging in showing an increasing number of officers of the law who have by their courage and fidelity to duty prevented lynchings in 35 cases.

It is discouraging in that it shows that race prejudice is still manifest as shown by the record. The nine persons lynched were all Negroes, altho Negroes do not constitute more than one eleventh of the total population. It is discouraging in that all of the lynchings occurred in the Southern states where the whites have complete control. It is perfectly evident that in the South, at least, Negroes are not given equal protection under the law. They are deprived almost entirely of their political rights and to a very large extent, of their civil rights.

Lynchings—1936
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan.—Dec.

5471

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
December 28, 1936

LYNCHING TOTAL AT 4 YEARS LOW

Nine Killings In 1936 All in the Southern States

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28.—(AP) Fewer persons—nine—have been lynched in 1936 than in any of the last four years, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said Monday.

All nine of the victims, a report from the institute's department of records and research said, were negroes, and all were killed in the south.

Officers saved thirty-five from mobs, the report continued, thirty in southern and five in northern states. Armed force was used against five mobs, Dr. Patterson said, and prisoners were removed or guards augmented to forestall mass action in other cases.

Lynch totals for previous years were announced as twenty in 1935; fifteen in 1934, and twenty-eight in 1933.

Offenses charged against lynch victims this year were: Assault, 3; attempted assault, 3; murder, 1; activity in sharecropper strike, 1, and charge not reported, 1.

Lynching by states:

Georgia, 5; Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Mississippi, 1.

Charleston, S. C., Evening Post
December 29, 1936

LESS LYNCHING

There has been during this year a marked reduction in the number of lynchings occurring within the boundaries of the United States. Nine persons have lost their lives in 1936 from this criminal and savage mob activity. That these cases of group vengeance were perpetrated is a cause for deep regret which will be felt by all who would have good order and law observance prevail, but that there has been in the past four years, taken as a whole, a steady and substantial decline in this form of lawlessness gives rise to the expectation of seeing in the not distant future elimination of lynching.

Twenty persons were victims of lynchers in 1935, fifteen met death at the hands of mobs in 1934 and in 1933 the total reached twenty-eight. Georgia is charged with five deaths by lynching this year, Arkansas with two, and Florida and Mississippi reported one each. Four States, then, out of the forty-eight must bear the reproach carried by the 1936 record.

Further statistics bring a brighter picture in showing that there were thirty-five instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, either by the removal of prisoners threatened with violence, or through the use of strengthened guards, and on five occasions armed force successfully repelled attacking mobs. Thus were sixty-nine persons saved from mob seizure.

While the situation brought about by mob violence is evidently definitely improving, no good reason exists why such a situation should not be done away with entirely. Public sentiment is all against lynching, as it should be, and law officers are well aware of this. The prevention of nearly two score potential lynchings this year demonstrates that more effective methods are being used in frustrating the mob. Alertness and courage, firmness and cool-headed action on the part of sheriffs and other officers will go far in preventing a crime that is both cowardly and dangerous to public welfare.

Orangeburg, S. C., Democrat
December 29, 1936

Number Lynchings Are Decreasing

The number of lyncnings in the past year showed a considerable decrease over previous years.

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repeal the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 while and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of modbs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2 Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi 1

Crossville, Tenn. Chronicle
December 31, 1936

NINE PERSONS LYNCHED DURING THE YEAR 1936

Following is information concerning lynchings for the year 1936. According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and 30 were in Southern states In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precuations taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Tifton, Ga., Gazette
December 28, 1936

Georgia set the nation a record in 1936 that none other should try to emulate. Of nine lynchings reported, Georgia was credited with five, or more than half. The nation as a whole did better than in 1935, but Georgia did worse.

Spartanburg, S. C. Journal
December 30, 1936

Nine Lynchings in 1936

For the year 1936 South Carolina had a clean slate as regards lynching and the forces of law and order and lawabiding and respecting citizenship hope it will remain so during the future. Only nine lynchings are recorded for the year by the Tuskegee institute, all in southern states. Georgia led with five, with Arkansas second with two. In Florida and in Mississippi there was one each.

Nine lynchings are just nine too many, and while such assaults upon law and order by the mob are not confined to any given section ,as records of past years show, the fact that all nine occurred in the South give the critics and baiters of this section one more argument to harp upon.

Hickory, N. C. Record
December 29. 1936

FEWER LYNCHINGS

Apparently much progress is being achieved in the prevention of lynchings as well as in the education of the public to let the law take its course.

Information compiled by the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, discloses that only nine persons—all of them colored—were lynched during 1936. This is eleven less than in 1935, six less than 1934, and nineteen less than in 1933.

Of particular interest, The Record believes, is the fact that there were thirty-five instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and thirty in Southern States. In thirty of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of sixty-nine persons—seven white and sixty-two colored—were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

It is pleasing that the Old North State managed to come through the year without the disgrace of a single "mob murder."

Savannah, Ga., Press
December 26, 1936

HALF OF LYCHINGS OCCUR IN GEORGIA

TOTAL OF NINE IN 1936 WITH FIVE IN THIS STATE

TUSKEGEE, Ga., Dec. 26.—More than half of the lynchings in the United States during the year just closing occurred in Georgia, according to the figures of the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute.

The records shows there were nine lynchings, all negroes, five of which occurred in Georgia. The total number of lynchings was eleven below the figure for 1935, which was 20. It was six less than in 1934 and 19 less than in 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law, two were taken from jails and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

The offenses charged against the persons lynched were assault, 3; attempted assault 3; murder 1; activity in share cropper strike, and charge not reported 1.

Besides Georgia lynchings occurred in the follownig states: Arkansas 2; Florida 1; Mississippi, 1.

There were thirty-five instances in which officers prevented lynchings the report stated. In thirty of the instances the prisoners were removed, the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers, the Tuckegee report said. A total of 69 persons ,7 white and 62 negro, were thus saved from the death at the hands of mobs, it was declared in the annual statement.

STILLWATER OKLA. GAZETTE (wk)
JAN. 8, 1937

NINE LYNCHED DURING 1936, SCHOOL REPORTS

Nine persons were lynched in the United States during 1936, ac-

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Valdosta, Ga., Times
December 30, 1936

There were five lynchings in Georgia this year. This is one more than all the other states combined. It is a "distinction" which should bring little satisfaction to Georgians.

MAYSVILLE, KY., INDEPENDENT
JAN. 12. 1937 J19

LYNCHINGS IN THE SOUTH

The Independent has received from the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, founded by Booker T

SAN ANTONIO, TEX., EXPRESS
JAN. 10, 1937 J15

Lynchings Decrease

It is gratifying to note that fewer persons were lynched in the United States in 1936 than during any of the last four years. The report comes from Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of

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TAMPA, FLA. TRIBUNE

JAN 3 1937

Fewer Lynchings

The lynching record improved in 1936. The Tuskegee Institute report records

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Mooresville, N. C. Enterprise
January 21. 1937

Lynching And Hard Times

Tuskegee Institute announces that

York, S. C. Enquirer
January 22, 1937

Better Knock on Wood.

We have made wondrous headway in the solution of the lynching problem. From figures compiled by the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial In-

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La Follette
[illegible] TENN., PRESS
JAN. 12. 1937 J19

9 LYNCHINGS DURING 1936

Eleven Fewer Lynchings In Nation Than In 1935, Record Of 28 In 1933

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuske

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OMAHA, NEB., ~~[illegible]~~ Guide
JAN. 2, 1937 J14

1936 Records Show Decline In Lynching

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the

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Newnan Ga. Times
Jan. 14-1937

State Has Over Half Of Lynchings In 1936

OF 9 MOB VIOLENCE DEATHS IN U. S., 5 HAVE OCCURRED IN GEORGIA.

More than half of the lynchings in the United States during the year just closing occurred in Georgia, according to figures released by Tuskagee Institute, well-known

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MARKSVILLE, LA., NEWS
JAN. 9, 1937 J18

Nine Lynchings Reported In '36

According to records compiled by the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute.

GUTHRIE, OK., STATE REGISTER
JAN. 14, 1937 J19

NINE ARE LYNCHED DURING YEAR 1936

Westminster, Md. Advocate

JAN 8 1937

LYNCHINGS ON THE WANE

The following information concerning lynchings for the year that we find, according to the records compiled in the Department of Records

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[illegible] N J Weekly Visitor
Audubon

JAN 14 1937

Only Nine Lynchings

According to the Tuskegee Institute

CARLISLE, KY., MERCURY
JAN. 7, 1937 J14

Nine Negroes Lynched In Country Last Year

The following record of lynching for 1936 as compiled in the Department of Records and Re-

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FITCHBURG, MASS. SENTINEL

JAN 13 1937

Mob Violence

(Allentown Call)

Mob violence, as expressed in lynchings, was much on the decline (the country will be glad to note) during 1936. Statistics compiled at Tuskegee Institute show that during

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Temple
~~TIPTON~~, OK., TRIBUNE
JAN. 7, 1937 J15

ONLY NINE LYNCHINGS.

According to the Tuskegee Institute annual bulletin on the subject, only

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Ripley, Miss. Sentinel
January 14, 1937

The research department of Tuskagee Institute reports that in

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Rolling Fork, Miss. Pilot
January 22, 1937

ONLY NINE LYNCHINGS

According to the Tuskegee Institute annual bulletin on the subject, only 9 persons were lynched in the

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Lowell, Mass. Sun

JAN 19 1937

Lynchings Decrease

(Cleveland Plain Dealer)

It is gratifying to note that fewer persons were lynched in the United States this year than during any of the last four years. The report comes from Dr. F. D. Patterson president of Tuskegee Institute

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VICKSBURG, MISS., POST
JAN. 17, 1937 J20

Only Nine Lynchings

According to the Tuskegee Institute annual bulletin on the subject, only 9 persons were lynched in the

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SAN BENITO TEX. LIGHT
JAN. 11, 1937

LYNCHINGS DECREASE

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PEARL RIVER N Y SEARCH
FRIDAY JANUARY 15 1937

ONLY NINE LYNCHINGS

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SPRING VALLEY N Y LEADER WEI
THURSDAY JANUARY 14 1937

ONLY NINE LYNCHINGS

According to the Tuskegee Institute annual bulletin on the subject, only nine persons were lynched in the United States last year, the

Jan.-Dec.

Lynchings-1936
Reports on, Sent Press.

5472

PITTSBURG, KAS., SUN
DEC. 29, 1936 J6

A Better Lynching Record.

The South has made a commendable record on lynching this year. Unless there is an outbreak before 1936 passes out Thursday night, the number of dead at the hands of mobs in this country during the year will stand at nine. This is eleven under the number of mob victims in 1935. It is six under the number of lynched persons in 1934 and nineteen less than the number for 1933.

But the report just issued by the Tuskegee Institute contains a most encouraging statement in addition to the reduction in the number of victims. It says that there were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Nor is this the most interesting. That is reserved for the statement that five of the instances where officers of the law prevented lynchings by mobs were in northern states and 30 of them were in southern states. Such a record commands attention.

Officers of the law in the South accepted their responsibilities seriously and took the view it was a crime for a mob to kill an offender. That old idea was not generally respected in the southern states. Almost without exception Negroes are the victims of southern mobs. Officers have been in the habit of offering little opposition to the demands of mobs out to hang or burn Negroes. But in 1936, 30 mobs were repelled in their attempts to kill victims because officers did their duty. In 30 of the 35 cases, the prisoners were saved by removal or by the strengthening of the guards or the use of other precautions not involving the use of armed force. In the other five cases, the officers used armed force to protect their prisoners and repel the mobs. The courage and honesty and good sense of the officers in these 35 instances saved from mob death and for proper handling by the law 69 persons—seven white and 62 Negro.

In practically every case, the life of a prisoner, sought for death by a mob, can be saved by officers if they are just reasonably brave, have a fair amount of intelligence and believe they have an obligation under their oaths of office. Time after time officers of this type have shown that mobs are cowardly and can be stopped and that they are dumb and can be eluded. That southern officers, chosen in elections, too, have shown they can defeat mobs and uphold the law is more significant and more gratifying than the figures showing the reduction in the number of mob victims.

All of the victims of mobs this year were Negroes. Four states are represented on the dishonor roll. Georgia ranks first with five victims. Arkansas is next with two. Florida and Mississippi had one each. One of the victims was killed by a mob for activity in a share cropper strike. It is most unusual when the offense for which a person is lynched is anything except murder or rape.

JACKSON, MISS., NEWS
DEC. 30, 1936 J5

THE LYNCHING RECORD

Here's a hard lick at those Yankees who are going to push an anti-lynching bill at the approaching session of Congress—a bill that has not a Chinaman's chance for passage.

The department of research at Tuskegee Institute which keeps statistics on the subject, reports that there were only nine persons lynched in the United States during the year 1936, and only one of the number occurred in Missisippi.

Records by states are:

Mississippi 1.
Florida 1.
Arkansas 2.
Georgia 5.

This is 11 less than the number lynched in 1935; six less than the number lynched in 1934; 19 less than the number lynched in 1933.

Of the nine lynched in 1936 all were negroes, three charged with rape, three charged with attempted rape, one with murder, one for activity in a share cropper strike, and one for a charge not reported.

Six of the negroes lynched were in the hands of the law when taken by mobs, and two were taken from jails.

There were 35 instances, according to the report, when officers of the law prevented lynchings, 5 in Northern states and 30 in Southern states, yet our Northern critics say we are not attempting to enforce the law down this way. In five cases armed forces were used to prevent lynchings. A total of 69 persons, 7 whites and 62 negroes, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Study these statistics carefully and you must conclude that it was a mighty fine showing for the year.

Also, consider the fact that six of those persons lynched were charged with a crime that always means death at the end of a rope down here in the South if an indignant populace can overcome or outwit officers of the law.

The number actually lynched does not equal the number of murders committed in one day in New York or Chicago.

After studying the figures can you see any reason for a Federal statute making officers of the law or the commonwealth financially responsible to the family of the man lynched?

If so, why not also a law making officers in communities where a murder occurs financially responsible to the family of the murdered man?

During the year 1935 the state of Mississippi spent nearly $75,000 using armed troops to prevent lynchings. The amount spent during 1936 was fully $30,000.

Our officers are trying to perform their duty, but a Federal anti-lynching law would make matters infinitely worse instead of better.

It is one of the best subjects in the world to leave alone.

Incidentally, a goodly number of people are getting good pay for writing propaganda on the subject of lynching.

No sort of statute can control the indignation of a mob. The chief deterrent is fearless officers.

TEXARKANA ARK. GAZETTE
DEC. 30, 1936 J6

LYNCHINGS CAN BE STOPPED

Announcement by the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that only nine persons were lynched in the United States in 1936 shows a reduction of more than 50 per cent in such crimes as compared with the year 1935. There were 20 lynchings in 1935.

Record is made of 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, five of these having occurred in Northern states and 30 in Southern states. In 30 of these instances prisoners either were removed to places of safety or other precautions were taken for their protection. In five instances armed military force was used to repel mobs. In these 35 instances a total of 69 persons were saved from death at the hands of mobs. Seven of these were white persons and 62 were negroes.

The record shows a steady decrease in the number of lynchings over a period of years, and a steady increase in the number of times officers of the law have been successful in resisting the aggressiveness of mobs.

There is no excuse for any lynching at any time, and the success of officers in stopping mobs on 35 different occasions shows that prisoners can be protected and mob action frustrated if peace officers show sufficient disposition to protect their prisoners and determination to see that the mob spirit of vengeance does not result in the commission of new crimes of violence.

The fact that some man, white or black, has committed some crime that arouses public indignation creates no license for other men to commit an additional crime of murder.

The officers who successfully resisted angry mobs and saved the lives of their prisoners deserve commendation. Their example is one for emulation by other officers should circumstances arise that make drastic action necessary.

HOUSTON TEX. POST
DEC. 30, 1936 J8

Fewer Lynchings

AMONG other accomplishments of the year 1936 to be thankful for is a record of fewer lynchings. The sharp decline in the number of persons put to death by mobs during the past year affords new ground for hope that permanent progress has been made in eradicating an evil that for many years has been a reproach to the United States.

The country's lynching statistics are compiled each year by President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee institute, and they are generally accepted as authentic. According to Dr. Patterson's record, only nine persons were done to death by mobs during the year just closing, which was eleven less than the twenty who became victims of mobs in 1935 and nineteen less than the twenty-eight in 1933.

Texas is to be congratulated on the fact that its record in 1936 was not stained by a single occurrence of death by mob violence. Let's keep the record clean again in the New Year soon to open, and through all the future years. Texas people as a whole are strongly opposed to lynching. It is only a minority that now and then resorts to that crime in a moment of passion.

That officers of the law have it within their power in the great majority of instances to prevent lynchings when mob violence is threatened is shown by Dr. Patterson's report that thirty-five attempts at lynchings were foiled by officers in 1936. That is a record to encourage officers everywhere to use every feasible precaution to protect their prisoners from mobs, and to stand firm against lawless groups.

Officers may be sure that majority public opinion backs them up when they see to it that the orderly processes of the law are carried out.

SHEFFIELD, ALA., TRI-CITIES DAILY
DEC. 29, 1936 J5

The Record Improves

The department of records and research ~~of the Tuskegee~~ Institute shows that only nine persons were lynched in the United States during 1936, less than during any recent year, there having been 20 in 1935; 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933.

Particularly encouraging is the statement that officers of the law and other responsible citizens prevented lynchings in 35 instances, which development is almost more encouraging than the actual reduction in lynchings.

Arrest and conviction of persons accused of crimes ordinarily responsible for lynchings and the meting out of sufficient punishment to match the offense will go a long way toward discouraging such riots in which human blood is drawn.

The officers of the law and the courts are to be commended for this improved showing, which, however, is far from perfect. There will be room for improvement just so long as a single person is lynched or a single attempt is made to lynch.

BOWLING GREEN, KY., TIMES
DEC. 28, 1936 J6

No Lynching In Kentucky

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute which shows that there were ~~9 persons included in 1936.~~ This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows. Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Goergia, 5; Mississippi, 1. It is encouraging to note that there were none in Kentucky.

Athens, Ala., Democrat
January 7, 1937

ALABAMA'S SLATE CLEAN

The number of lynchings during 1936 dropped down to 9, a decrease of 11 from the previous year. Of the nine lynchings in the United States during the past year, in Alabama none were recorded.

Of the twelve Southern states, eight of them were lynch-less, revealing a decided public opinion in Dixie against mob rule. Georgia, with five of the lynchings, Arkansas with two and Florida and Mississippi with one each made up the list.

Alabama has gained its share of unfavorable publicity and since the odious Scottsboro case came into the limelight the people of this state have shied away from race trouble and mob rule. For that they are to be commended.

Through the vigorous efforts of the officers of the law 35 lynchings were averted, thereby saving from mobs 69 persons, of whom seven were white, the remainder negroes. And of these 35 instances mentioned, five occurred in Northern states.

Each year sees a decline in the number of lynchings and revives hope that after all, we are becoming more civilized.

BRYAN, TEX., EAGLE
DEC. 28, 1936 J6

1936 LYNCHING RECORD IS BEST IN FOUR YEARS

Statistics compiled at Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, Alabama, ~~on lynchings show~~ that there were nine cases in 1936, the lowest number in several years.

This figure compares with 20 for 1935, 15 for 1934 and 28 for 1933. Of the persons lynched six were in the hands of the law, two being taken from jails and four from officers outside of jails.

WICHITA FALLS, TEX., TIMES
DEC. 29, 1936 J7

THE YEAR'S LYNCHING RECORD

There have been only nine lynchings this year, according to the compilation by the Tuskegee institute. With the exception of 1932, when there were only eight mob murders, 1936's showing is the best yet recorded. In 1935, there were 20 lynchings; in 1934, 15; in 1933, 28. All of the lynching victims this year were negroes. There were five lynchings in Georgia, two in Arkansas, one each in Florida and Mississippi. This is the second time, we believe, that Texas has had a year without a lynching.

The Tuskegee report says that there were 35 instances in which threatened lynchings were prevented by officers, with a total of 69 prisoners involved in the threats.

When one compares the 1936 lynching figures with 1922's 57, with 1919's 80 and with the average of 75 annually which was recorded in the first decade of this century, it is apparent that this blot on civilization is smaller and less dark than it was not so very long ago. The fact that peace officers everywhere are now disposed to resist mob action is an encouraging one. There are not many instances of threatened lynchings in which a little courage and resourcefulness on the part of officers do not suffice to thwart the mob.

The 1936 figures tend to maintain the curious analogy which exists between lynchings and the price of cotton. As a general rule, the higher the prevailing price of cotton, the fewer lynchings. A notable exception was 1932, when the price of cotton was very low, and there were only eight lynchings. But the general rule holds good. The price of cotton this year was substantially higher than in 1935; and there were less than half as many lynchings.

AKRON OHIO BEACON JOURNAL
SATURDAY JANUARY 2 1937

Better, But Still Bad

Tuskegee ~~Institute's~~ annual report on lynching shows a material decrease over the 1935 toll of mob fury. But it also indicates that the country has a long way to go before lawlessness gives way to law.

Nine persons were lynched in 1936, 11 less than in the previous year, but only six less than in 1934. Georgia led the roll call of shame with five victims, Arkansas was next with two and Florida and Mississippi followed with one each. Six of the mob's victims were either taken from jails or from peace officers. All nine were Negroes.

The brighter side of this grisly picture is contained in statistics showing the number of instances where mob rule was thwarted. A total of 69 persons, seven white and 62 Negro, were saved from violent deaths by prompt action of peace officers.

Of the nine hanged, shot or burned to death—or all three—six were suspected of rape or attempted rape, one was charged with murder and one with activity in a share-cropper's strike. Against the ninth no charge was reported.

Obviously there is little to rejoice about here. The best that can be said is that the record is a little better than it has been. But as long as the passing of a year records even one victim of mob fury the United States can not claim to be a law-abiding and civilized nation.

ENID OKLA. NEWS
DEC. 30, 1936 J7

THE 1936 LYNCH RECORD

It is a fortunate circumstance that during 1936, the number of lynchings in the United States, as recorded on Tuskegee institute records, dropped to nine, as compared to 20 in 1935, fifteen in 1934, and twenty-eight in 1933. It is fortunate, but still a disgraceful record, since all of those lynched were in southern states, all were negroes, and six of the nine were in the hands of the law when seized by frenzied mobs.

Happily, in the 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, 30 were in the southern states, indicating that sentiment against lynch law, long too common in that area, is increasing, and that officers, most of whom once looked upon the lynching of a negro with equanamity, now are beginning to take their duty as law enforcers more seriously.

Oklahoma, during the year, had no lynch victims. Several mobs formed but none of these threats against prisoners became serious. Georgia heads the bloody record, with five of the nine lynchings; Arkansas had two; Florida and Mississippi, one each.

Certainly this state can be proud of its record, but it appears that some of its sister cotton growers yet have work to do to insure legal trial to negro suspects.

TALLADEGA, ALA., HOME
DEC. 29, 1936 J5

MINE LYNCHING

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 29.—There were nine lynchings in the United States in 1936.

The records ~~compiled by the~~ Tuskegee Institute here showed that all the victims ~~were~~ Negroes.

There were 20 lynchings last year, 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933, the annual report of the institute showed.

Five of this year's lynchings were in Georgia. Arkansas had two and there was one in Mississippi and one in Florida.

The report said officers prevented 35 lynchings this year. Five were prevented in Northern states and 30 in the South.

SNYDER TEX. TIMES (wk)
DEC. 31, 1936 J8

No Texas Lynchings

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama school for the training of ~~colored young~~ men and women, states in its annual report on lynchings that only nine persons, all negroes, were lynched in this country in 1936. Dear old Georgia leads the pack of lynching wolves, with five. Arkansas lynched twice, Florida and Mississippi once each. Texas, scene of many lynchings in its day, is evidently becoming more civilized. A total of 20 persons were lynched in 1936. Vigilant officers are credited with saving 69 persons from mob violence.

Lynchings-1936
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan.-Dec.

5473

Greer, S. C. Citizen
December 30, 1936

FEWER LYNCHINGS—

Great improvement has been made during 1936 in lynchings in the United States.

According to Tuskegee records only nine persons were lynched in the United States, and none in South Carolina.

The states in which lynchings occurred, and the number in each follow: Arkansas 2, Georgia 5, Florida 1, and Mississippi 1.

The total is 11 less than the number of lynchings last year, six less than the number for 1934 and 19 less than the number for 1933.

These figures show cause for much encouragement and it is to be hoped that they continue to improve.

BIRMINGHAM ALA. NEWS
JAN. 1, 1937

The Lynching Record Shows Improvement

Both in the number of lynchings and also in the number of attempted lynchings prevented by police action was there improvement shown during 1936. Only nine persons, all Negroes, were lynched, according to President ~~F. D. Patterson, of Tuskegee~~ Institute, while lynching attempts were ~~thwarted in 35 instances.~~

The record of nine lynchings is the lowest for any year with the exception of 1932, when only eight were lynched. The contrast with 20 lynchings in 1935, 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933 encourages a hope that the nation is definitely turned toward reliance upon legal measures for punishing the guilty.

Alabama's own record of no lynchings during the last two years is, of course, highly gratifying. For this record we have to thank officials of the law, since on several occasions mobs sought to take the law into their own hands but were prevented by force. In at least one case in the state, the intended victim of the mob was later acquitted by a white jury in an orderly trial. A few instances like that naturally will give pause to would-be lynchers.

But the foes of lynching will not call their task done until it is as rare here as it is in some European countries where many years may pass by without an illegal execution. We are prone to excuse ourselves in this country on the plea that our lynchings grow out of the race problem, which other countries do not have. But according to Tuskegee Institute records, of the 6,010 persons lynched in the United States since 1882, 27 per cent were white. While the percentage of white victims has been smaller for the last decade or so, there are still white lynchings. Of the 69 persons saved from mobs during 1936, seven were white. The problem is not at all exclusively racial, and it will not be completely solved until it is tackled more on a non-racial basis.

ALBANY (N. Y.) NEWS
SATURDAY JANUARY 2 1937

Lynching

ONE encouraging report of 1936 was that lynching showed a real decrease. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, ~~which~~ compiles these reports each years says nine lynchings took place in this country in 1936, a decrease of 11 from 1935 and six fewer than in 1934. Georgia led with five lynchings last year, Arkansas had two and Florida and Mississippi one each.

The most heartening part of the report is that several lynchings were prevented by officers. The law either outwitted mobs or forcibly repelled them in 35 cases and five of these cases were not in the South. The lives of 62 Negroes and of seven white persons were saved from lynchers in 1936.

That is the best part of the record for it is depressing to read that so many lynchings were attempted. It is good to know that mob law, however, could not prevail.

Lynching cannot be condoned under any circumstances. The law should take its course. And in the nine lynching cases last year, all the victims were in the hands of the law but the law was not permitted to function. Lynching is a shame to any state.

PADUCAH, KY., SUN
JAN. 1, 1937

Fewer Lynchings

From Tuskegee Institute, in Alabama, comes news that there has been a marked decline in the number of lynchings in the United States during the past twelve months. Figures compiled by F. D. Patterson, president, show that nine persons were lynched in 1936. This is eleven less than the total for the preceding year, when 20 lynchings were reported.

This is good news for all Americans who respect the law and who believe in law enforcement and justice. All of the nine persons lynched during the year were Negroes. It is to the credit of Kentucky that not a single lynching occurred within the confines of this state in 1936. Georgia led the list with five lynchings. Arkansas was second with two. Florida and Mississippi had one each.

In an age we boast to call enlightened mob law is the wrong law. The impressive decline in the number of lynchings in 1936 is an encouraging indication that men are losing their taste for mob-conducted courts. It is to be hoped that soon we may see the record entirely free from this blemish.

Savannah, Ga., News
January 6, 1937

Fewer Lynchings.

Atlanta Constitution: The department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute announces that deaths from mob violence in 1936 dropped to nine, all negroes and all in Southern states, as compared to 20 in 1935, 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933. Thirty-five persons were saved from possible mob action, the report shows, including five in Northern states. Armed forces were used in five instances.

Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the institute, feels that "the return of better business conditions removed a feeling of unrest, which is more apt to lead to violence than under ordinary conditions. Better racial feeling and better understanding, both promoted by continuous educational campaigns, also contributed to the better showing."

In Atlanta, Dr. R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, emphasizes that "the decrease in the number of lynchings is a distinctly encouraging thing, and is obviously due to the educational campaigns being carried on by the churches, newspapers and various organizations. Officers are responding to enlightened public opinion, and doing a great deal more to prevent lynchings."

While it is regrettable that of the nine lynchings five occurred in Georgia, the record for the entire nation is such a distinct improvement as to be gratifying to those who stand for law and order as opposed to rule of the mob. Georgia must catch step with the advance made by other states in stamping out mob violence.

Citizens of any community may safely rely upon the courts to deal justly with accused persons, and by orderly methods arrive at the guilt or innocence of those accused of offenses against law and order, and in the case of guilt fix the punishment to fit the crime, with carrying out of the sentence in keeping with the law of the state.

NEW ORLEANS LA. ITEM
DEC. 29. 1936

Lynching

TUSKEGEE Institute reports that nine persons ~~have~~ been lynched this year. That is eleven less than last year, six less than in 1934, and 19 less than 1933. This marks a great improvement, but is none too good at that. We won't be completely civilized until we go through the year without any lynching at all.

Another aspect of the matter also shows great advance. Law officers prevented 35 lynchings this year, 30, of these occasions being in the South. In five of these cases armed force was employed against mobs. Some 62 Negroes and five white persons were saved from outlaws in these 35 cases. Georgia won the dishonorable eminence at the head of the lynching-roster, with five of these crimes. Arkansas permitted two of them, Florida and Mississippi one each.

Tallahassee, Fla.
Democrat

DEC 27 1936

Lynching Record Shows Marked Improvement

The lynching record for 1936 shows a marked improvement over previous years. There were 9 persons lynched this year, 20 in 1935, 15 in 1934, and 28 in 1933.

Of the persons lynched this year all were negroes and all were in the southern states: 2 in Arkansas, 1 in Florida, 5 in Georgia, and 1 in Mississippi.

But the south has a good record in the prevention of lynchings. Of the attempted lynchings prevented by removal of prisoners or strengthening of guards in 30 instances and by force in 5 instances, 69 persons, 7 of them white were saved from mobs to face legal trial. Thirty of the prevented lynching attempts were in the southern states.

FREDONIA N Y CENSOR (wkly)
FRIDAY JANUARY 1 1937

LYNCHINGS DECREASE

The number of lynchings in the United States decreased to 9 in 1936, according to figures released by the Tuskegee Institute. There were 20 in 1935, 15 in 1934, 28 in 1933. Sixty-nine persons were saved from lynching by armed force. All of the nine lynched were negroes.

Although the decrease is a matter of satisfaction. Public opinion should not become indifferent until the blot on America's record is entirely removed.

ROCK ISLAND ILL. ARGUS
SATURDAY JANUARY 2 1937

Fewer Lynchings.

During the year 1936 there were only nin lynchings. This is 11 less than the 20 which took place in 1935, and six less than the 1 of 1934. Compared to 1933, the decrease i 19. In that year there were 28 mob executions.

There were 36 instances also, wherein officers of the law prevented mobs from lynching prisoners.

Of the nine persons who were lynched in 1936 all were negroes. All the victims were residents of southern states. Five of the nine lynchings took place in Georgia. In that state the negro population is large, but not as large as that of Mississippi and Alabama. Under the circumstances Georgia's record is not enviable.

The figures are encouraging, however, as they indicate a commendable change in public sentiment. Tuskogee Institute checks up every year on lynchings because as a rule negroes are the victims of mob violence.

SAN ANTONIO. TEX., EXPRESS
DEC. 29, 1936 J6

FROM THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR 1936

Set against the 20 lynchings recorded for 1935, the nine which Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute counted during 1936 represent a turn for the better. For all that, the situation is evil and will remain so while the American people must face the reproach of any unpunished mob murder. Did not so many communities tolerate it—as Woodrow Wilson said, while President—the condition could not last.

As matters stand, the lynching record apparently runs in cycles. When times are good, mob crimes fall off; when economic depression is at low point, mob spirit is rampant. That connection (or coincidence) has led some students to conclude that the ultimate motive for lynch-murder is economic. Certainly, during 1936 the Nation did advance along the road to recovery—and only one of the lynchings sprang from related labor difficulties: an Arkansas mob hanged a Negro for participating in a share-croppers' strike!

Six of the nine victims were charged with "the usual crime." In Judge Lynch's jurisdiction, to be charged is to be convicted and immediately hanged. Six victims were taken from the law's hands—four from officers and two from jails. Had those officials proved as resourceful in resisting and outwitting mobs as did peace officers in 35 other threatened lynchings, involving 69 persons, the number of such crimes would have been held down to three.

In his report, F. D. Patterson, Tuskegee Institute's president, properly emphasizes official resistance to would-be lynchers. Until enlightened humanitarian sentiment and civic pride shall lead the people to rise up and wipe out such practices forever, decent citizens everywhere will look to fearless, quick-thinking, energetic peace officers as the community's first line of defense against the mob.

Such officers last summer probably prevented the lynching of nine persons (including four women) following a brawl in Harris County. The Nation would have been shocked and Texas again would have led the infamous roll in 1936.

As it is, Texas can show a clean slate for the period of its Centennial observance. That official service—in the old-time Ranger tradition—should be remembered and recognized. Those officers are proper candidates for the gold medals annually bestowed by the Commission on Interracial Co-operation in Atlanta (Georgia).

Simply by gathering the bare figures of the lynching record year after year, and letting those figures—published to the world—speak for themselves, Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute also is rendering service.

COVINGTON TENN. LEADER (wk)
DEC. 31, 1936 J6

LYNCHINGS DECLINE FOR THE YEAR 1936

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were nine persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; six less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Of the persons lynched, six were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails, and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern states and 30 in Southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, seven white and 62 negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were negroes. The offences charged were: Rape, three; attempted rape, three; murder, one; activity in share-cropper strike, one; charge not reported, one.

The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, two; Florida, one; Georgia, five; Mississippi, one.

CROSSVILLE TENN. CHRONICLE (wk)
DEC. 31, 1936 J6

NINE PERSONS LYNCHED DURING THE YEAR 1936

Following is information concerning lynchings for the year 1936. According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and 30 were in Southern states In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precuations taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

NAVASOTA. TEX., EXAMINER
DEC. 28, 1936 J6

Nine Persons Lynched In 1936

Records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Turkegee Institute reveal that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1932; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia 5; Mississippi, 1.

Marion
~~FLORENCE~~. ALA., TIMES
DEC. 31, 1936 J6

LYNCHINGS SHOW MARKED DECLINE

Nine In Nation Are Put To Death By Mobs During Last Year

STATE RECORD CLEAR

Lynchings in the United States during 1936 showed a marked decline from the previous year records compiled by the department of records and research at Tuskegee Institute reveal, according to F. D. Patterson, president of the institution.

There were nine persons, all negroes, lynched in this country during 1936 as compared with 20 who met a similar fate in 1935 and 15 in 1934. In 1933, 28 persons met death by lynching.

Of those lynched in 1936 six persons were in custody of the law at the time, two of them being taken from jail and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances during 1936 in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, with five of such instances occurring in northern states and the remaining 30 in southern states, according to records of the Tuskegee Institute. In 30 of such instances the prisoners were either removed, guards augmented or other precautions taken while armed force was used in the other five cases to prevent lynchings. A total of 69 persons, seven white and 62 negroes, were thus saved from death by lynchings at the hands of mobs.

The offenses charged against the nine negroes lynched in 1936 ranged from rape, attempted rape, and murder to activity in a share-cropper strike.

The institute records show of the nine lynchings two were in Arkansas one in Florida; five in Georgia; one in Mississippi, giving Alabama a clean record in this respect during the year.

KEARNEY NEBR. TRIBUNE
JAN. 1, 1937 J8

TUSKEGEE HEAD REPORTS LYNCHINGS

Nine Hanged in 1936; Each Person Was A Negro.

Tuskegee, Okla.
Dec. 23, 1936.

Editor, Tribune:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year, 1936.

I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes.

The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Yours very truly,
F. D. PATERSON
President.

Lynchings-1936
Reports on, Sent Press

Jan.-Dec.

5474

Lake City, S. C., News
December 31, 1936

Nine Persons Lynched in 1936.

According to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in northern states and 30 in southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are are follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Christian

Birmingham, Ala., [redacted] Advocate
January 7, 1937

LYNCHINGS IN UNITED STATES

I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933; 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings; 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repeal the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.—Yours very truly, F. D. Patterson, President, Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute.

Woodbury, Tenn. Courier
January 8, 1937

ONLY NINE LYNCHINGS

According to the Tuskegee Institute annual bulletin on the subject, only 9 persons were lynched in the United States last year, the smallest number in any year except one since records have been kept, that being 1932, when there were only 8 lynchings.

All 9 persons lynched in 1936 were Negroes, and the offenses charged were: Rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1 Lynchings occurred in the following states: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Mississippi, 1.

Figures compiled at Tuskegee indicate that officers of the law saved 69 persons from death at the hands of mobs during the year, and of this number 7 were white.

The crime of lynching has greatly decreased in recent years, due largely to increased vigilance on the part of officers of the law, and especially through prompt removal of certain classes of suspected criminals to more secure prisons at a considerable distance from the localities where these crimes were committed.

Lynchings in the United States reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white. During the last five years lynchings have occurred as follows: In 1932, 8; in 1933, 28; in 1934, 15; in 1935, 20; in 1936, 9.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and is a reflection upon any community in which it occurs. No good citizen will participate in or condone mob murder.

KENOSHA (WIS.) NEWS
THURSDAY JANUARY 7 1937

Lynchings in U. S. Decrease

Only Nine Recorded in U. S. During the Year 1936

Tuskegee, Ala. — (AP) — Fewer persons—nine—have been lynched in 1936 in the United States than in any of the last four years, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said.

All the 1936 victims, a report from the institute's department of records and research said, were negroes and all were killed in the south.

Officers saved 35 persons from mobs, the report continued, 30 in southern and five in northern states.

Armed Force 5 Times

Armed force was used against five mobs and prisoners were removed or guards augmented to forestall mass action in other cases.

Lynch totals for recent years were announced as 20 in 1935; 15 in 1934, and 28 in 1933.

Offenses charged against lynch victims this year were: rape 3; attempted rape 3; murder 1; activity in sharecropper strike 1; charge not reported 1.

Lynchings by states:
Georgia 5; Arkansas 2; Florida 1 Mississippi 1.

DANVILLE KY. MESSENGER
JAN. 1, 1937

Lynchings Show Decrease.

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances prisoners removed or the guards augumented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi 1.

Everyone will be pleased to know lynchings are on the decrease. It should be stopped entirely.

LINCOLN NEBR. STATE JOURNA
DEC. 29, 1936

FEWER LYNCHINGS IN 1936

Nine Victims, All Negroes, and All in South States.

TUSKEGEE, Ala. (AP). Fewer persons—nine—have been lynched in 1936 in the United States than in any of the last four years, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said. All the 1936 victims, a report from the institution's department of records and research said, were Negroes, and all were killed in the south. Officers saved 35 persons from mobs, the report continued, 30 in southern and 5 in northern states. Armed force was used against five mobs and prisoners were removed or guards augmented to forestall mass action in other cases. Lynch totals for recent years were announced as 20 in 1935, 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933. Offenses charged against lynch victims this year were: Rape 3, attempted rape 3, murder 1, activity in sharecropper strike 1, charge not reported 1.

Lynchings by states: Georgia 5, Arkansas 2, Florida 1, Mississippi 1.

Clanton, Ala., Banner
December 31, 1936

REPORT ON LYNCHINGS DURING PAST YEAR

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., Dec. 23.—according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number, 20, for 1935; 6 less than the number, 15, for 1934; and 19 less than the number, 28, for 1933. Of the persons lynched, 6 were in the hands of the law! 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Of these, 5 were in northern states and 30 in southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 negroes. The offenses charged were: at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were negros The offenses charged were: Rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida. 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

WINFIELD KANS. COURIER
JAN. 1. 1937

FEWER LYNCHINGS

The country made a big improvement in its record on lynchings in 1936. The number of dead at the hands of mobs in this country during the year stands at nine. This is eleven under the number of mob victims in 1935. It is six under the number of lynched persons in 1934 and nineteen less than the number for 1933.

The report just issued by the Tuskegee Institute contains a most encouraging statement in addition to the reduction in the number of victims. It says that there were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Nor is this the most interesting. That is reserved for the statement that five of the instances where officers of the law prevented lynchings by mobs were in northern states and 30 of them were in southern states. Such a record commands attention.

All of the victims of mobs this year were Negroes. Four states are represented in the dishonor roll. Georgia ranks first with five victims. Arkansas is next with two. Florida and Mississippi had one each.

CLINTON, KY., GAZETTE
DEC. 31, 1936 J8

PUBLIC OPINION

Editor, The Gazette:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1936. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern states and 30 in Southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas 2; Florida 1; Georgia 5; Mississippi 1.

Yours very truly,
F. D. Patterson, pres.,
Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute.

LINCOLN, NEB. ~~HERALD~~ Digest
DEC. 31, 1936 J8

FROM TUSKEGEE

Tuskegee Institute, Ala.
December 23, 1936

Dear Editor:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1936. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Yours very truly,
F. D. Patterson, Pres.

KANSAS CITY, MO., JOURNAL
DEC. 30, 1936 D31

NINE LYNCHED IN 1936

All Negroes, Tuskegee Institute Reports.

Nine persons were lynched in the United States in 1936, a report by the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial institute, Tuskegee, Ala., discloses. The number was 11 fewer than in 1935. All were Negroes.

Three of the victims were charged with rape; three with attempted rape; one with murder; one with activity in a share croppers' strike, and one charge was not reported.

The states in which the lynchings occurred were Arkansas 2, Florida 1, Georgia 5 and Mississippi 1.

Officers of the law were credited with having prevented 35 lynchings, in which the lives of 69 persons were saved. Five of these were in northern states and 30 in southern states. The prisoners were removed, the guards augmented or other precautions taken in 30 of these instances. In five others, armed force was used to repel mobs. Of the 69 persons thus saved from mobs, seven were white and 62 Negroes.

Picayune, Miss. Item
December 31, 1936

Lynching Record

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1936. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 negroes, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Missisippi, 1.

Ayden, N. C., Dispatch
December 31, 1936

NINE PERSONS LYNCHED IN 1936

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precutions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

TRENTON MO. REPUBLICAN
JAN. 4, 1937 J11

REDUCTION IN LYNCHINGS

From the Kansas City Journal-Post

When Americans deplore the treatment of Jews and political liberals in Germany, Nazis remind them of the lynching of Negroes in this country. It is a retort that cannot be passed over lightly; these mob murders are crimes of which all decent citizens of the United States are ashamed.

Happily, the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial institute, which keeps figures on the matter, is able to report that 11 fewer persons were lynched in 1936 than in 1935. The figure for last year was nine. Even one lynching would be shameful, but the fact that there was some improvement last year arouses the hope at least that the future will bring an end to barbarism.

While the North is no stranger to mob rule, all of last year's victims were in the South and all of them were Negroes. There were two in Arkansas, one in Florida, five in Georgia and one in Mississippi, leaving five southern states with a clean record for 1936.

However, that does not mean that there was a reduction of mob passions to the extent that the number of fatalities indicates. The Tuskegee institute credits law enforcement officials with having prevented 35 lynchings, thereby saving the lives of 69 persons, 62 of whom were Negroes. In five instances mobs were broken up by force. In the other 30 the prisoners were removed, the guards were increased or other precautions were taken.

In recent years prominent citizens in many southern communities have organized crusades against lychning. They are growing in number. Perhaps in time they will end this vicious evil.

LOUISVILLE, KY., TIMES
DEC. 30, 1936 J7

Lynching Statistics

To the Editor of The Times:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1936. I find, according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, that there were nine persons lynched in 1936. This is eleven less than in 1935; six less than 1934, and nineteen less than 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails, and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were thirty-five instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and thirty in Southern States. In thirty of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of sixty-nine persons, seven white and sixty-two Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, three; attempted rape, three; murder, one; activity in share cropper strike, one; charge not reported, one.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in in each State are as follows: Arkansas, two; Florida, one; Georgia, five; Mississippi, one.

F. D. PATTERSON
President, Tuskegee Normal
and Industrial Institute.
Tuskegee, Ala.

Lakeland, Fla. Ledger

DEC 29 1936

Nine Lynched In 1936; Record Is Best Since 1932

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 29—(AP)—Fewer persons—nine—have been lynched in 1936 than in any of the past four years, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee institute, said.

All nine of the victims, a report from the institute's department of records and research said, were negroes and all were killed in the south.

Officers saved 35 from mobs, the report continued, 30 in southern and five in northern states.

Lynch totals for previous years were announced as 20 in 1935, 15 in 1934, and 28 in 1933.

Offenses charged against lynch victims this year were: Rape 3; attempted rape 3; murder 1; activity in sharecroppers strike 1, and charge not reported 1.

Lynching by states: Georgia 5; Arkansas 2; Florida 1; Mississippi 1.

Jan.-Dec.

5475

Lynchings-1936
Reports on, Sent Press.

Norfolk, Va., Ledger-Dispatch
December 29, 1936

FEWER PERSONS LYNCH VICTIMS

Nine, All In Southern States, Killed By Mobs In 1936

OFFICERS SAVE 35 FROM DEATH

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 29—(AP)—Fewer persons — nine — have been lynched in 1936 than in any of the last four years, Dr. F. D. Petterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said.

All the 1936 victims, a report from the institute's department of records and research said, were Negroes, and all were killed in the south.

Officers saved 35 from mobs, the report continued, 30 in southern and five in northern states. Armed force was used against five mobs, Dr. Patterson said, and prisoners were removed or guards augmented to forestall mass action in other cases.

Lynch totals for previous years were announced as 20 in 1935; 15 in 1934, and 28 in 1933.

Offenses charged against lynch victims this year were: Rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in sharecropper strike, 1, and charge not reported, 1.

Lynching by states: Georgia, 5; Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Mississippi, one.

MT CARMEL ILL REPUB REG
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1936

LYNCHINGS NEAR EXTINCTION

Each year the Tuskegee Institute complies and publishes the statistics on lynching in America.

It is a useful task, because it keeps the country informed of the progress being made in stamping out this blot on civilization.

For 1936 a new low mark was reached in lynching. There were only 9 lynchings reported during the year, compared with 20 for 1935, 15 for 1934 and 28 for 1933. Of the nine persons lynched, six were already in the hands of the law.

There were 35 cases in which officers of the law prevented lynchings.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged against them were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share croppers' strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states which suffered the disgrace of lynchings were: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 2; Mississippi, 1.

Of course nine lynchings in one year are just nine too many, but the figures hold out the hope that lynchings will ultimately be stamped out. It may yet take its place along with kidnaping as a crime which isn't tolerated in America.

Blakeley, Ga., News
December 31, 1936

LYNCHINGS IN U. S. IN 1936 ARE LESS THAN IN 1935

MARKED DECREASE IS SHOWN FROM PREVIOUS YEARS, RECORDS SHOW

Lynchings during the current year have shown a marked decrease from 1935, according to records compiled by F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute.

According to these records, there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper's strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia 5; Mississippi, 1.

Florala, Ala., News
December 31, 1936

Lynchings In 1936

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1936. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were nine persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; six less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails, and four were from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A' total of 69-persons, 7 white and 62 negros, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Mississippi, 1.

Yours very truly,

F. D. PATTERSON, Pres.

MEADVILLE PA TRIB-REP
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1936

DECREASE IN LYNCHINGS.

It is difficult for "northern" people to understand the emotional tension and the strain among "southerners" which, when released, results in lynchings. Yet they rejoice in the spread of education and the increased respect for law and order which reduced the number of lynchings during the past year.

F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute—founded by Booker T. Washington — has compiled some interesting statistics concerning lynchings for the year 1936. He finds that there were nine persons lynched in that period—11 less than in 1935; six less than in 1934, and 19 less than in 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails, and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and 30 in southern states. In 30 cases the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, seven white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, three; attempted rape, three; murder, one; activity in share cropper strike, one; charge not reported, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, two; Florida, one; Georgia, five; and Mississippi, one.

MENOMINEE MICH HER LEAD
MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1936

Judge Lynch Kills Fewer Men in '36

TUSKEGEE, Ala. — AP — Fewer persons—nine—have been lynched in 1936 in the United States than in any of the last four years, Dr F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute said today.

All the 1936 victims were killed in the south.

Lynch totals for recent years were announced as 20 in 1935; 15 in 1934, and 28 in 1933.

Offenses charged against lynch victims this year were: rape 3; attempted rape 3; murder 1; activity in sharecropper strike 1; charge not reported 1.

Lynching by states:
Georgia 5; Arkansas 2; Florida 1; Mississippi 1.

WAYNESBORO PA RECORD HER
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1936

CONTROL OF MOBS

Following custom, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, has issued information concerning lynchings for the year. He finds nine persons were lynched in the United States in 1936, 11 less than the number 20 in 1935; six less than the number 15 in 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law, two were taken from jails and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

Of significant note was the fact that in 35 instances officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and 30 in southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken.

Evident is the fact that this year greater precautions than ever before were taken to prevent lynchings, which means mobs were better controlled.

Abbeville, S. C. Press and Banner
January 7 1937

MOB VIOLENCE IN 1936

Tuskegee Institute, in its annual report issued Monday, reports nine deaths from mob violence in the United States during 1936, as follows: Georgia 5, Arkansas 2, Florida 1, Mississippi 1. Last year there were 20 lynchings compared with 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933.

The showing for 1936 is the best since records have been com piled with the exception of that in 1932 when there were eight lynchings.

Tuskegee Institute began the compilation of statistics on mob violence in the United States in 1882. Between 1882 and 1934, inclusive, a total of 4,645 persons—1,291 whites and 3,352 negroes—were lynched. The worst year in the history of mob violence was in 1892 when there were 231 lynchings, compared with the second highest total of 211 in 1884. Lynchings in the last decade have totaled 159 in the whole country, a remarkable showing compared with the record of 1882-1891, inclusive, when the number was 1,494.

We seem to be eliminating a great American disgrace. The Institute attributes the record of 1936 to the return of prosperity, excellent work by law enforcement officers and better racial relations. We cannot accept the first of the three explanations because there were only eight lynchings in 1932 when the country had reached the lowest level of depression. We prefer to think that better racial relations and improved law enforcement and observance of law were the real reasons for the excellent showing.—Spartanburg Herald.

NEWARK, N. J. EVE. NEWS

DEC 28 1936

Lynchings Fewer Than in 4 Years

Mobs Killed Nine Persons in 1936, Tuskegee Head Reports

TUSKEGEE, Ala. (AP)—Fewe persons—nine—have been lynched in 1936 in the United States than in any of the previous four years, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, reported today.

All the 1936 victims were Negroes and all were killed in the South. Officers saved thirty-five persons from mobs, thirty in Southern and five in northern states. Armed force was used against five mobs and prisoners were removed or guards augmented to forestall mass action in other cases.

Lynch totals were 20 in 1935, 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933.

Offenses charged against lynch victims this year were: Rape 3, attempted rape 3, murder 1, activity in sharecropper strike 1, charge not reported 1.

Lynching by states: Georgia 5, Arkansas 2, Florida 1, Mississippi 1.

Camden, S. C., Messenger
December 30, 1936

Lynchings in 1936

The following record of lynchings in the year 1936 is furnished us by F. D Patterson, President of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute:

"I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1936; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1."

Dawson, Ga., News
December 31, 1936

STATE HAS OVER HALF OF LYNCHINGS IN 1936

OF 9 MOB VIOLENCE DEATHS IN U. S., 5 HAVE OCCURRED IN GEORGIA.

More than half of the lynchings in the United States during the year just closing occurred in Georgia, according to figures released by Tuskagee Institute, well-known Alabama negro college.

The records show there were nine lynchings, all negroes, five of which occurred in Georgia. The total number of lynchings was eleven below the figure for 1935, which was 20. It was six less than in 1934 and 19 less than in 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law, two were taken from jails and four from officers of the la woutside of jails.

The offenses charged against the persons lynched were assault, 3; attempted assault, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, and charge not reported, 1.

Besides Georgia lynchings occurred in the following states: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Mississippi, 1.

There were thirty-five instances in which officers prevented lynchings, the report states. In thirty of the instances the prisoners were removed, the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers, the Tuskegee report said. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 negro, were thus saved from the death at the hands of mobs, it is declared in the annual statement.

MOUNDSVILLE W VA ECHO
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1936

1936 LYNCHING RECORD

According to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in northern states and 30 in southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the wouldbe lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Oneida, Tenn. News
January 1, 1937

LYNCHING RECORD IS GIVEN FOR YEAR 1936

Statistics Compiled by Tuskegee Institute of Ala.

The Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute shows that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails, and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern states.

In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, seven white and 62 negro, were thus saved from death at the hand of mobs.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, three; attempted rape, three; murder, one; activity in share cropper strike, one; charge not reported, one.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, two; Florida, one; Georgia, five; Mississippi, one.

Union City, Tenn. Commercial
December 29, 1936

BRIEF NEWS NOTES

According to figures released by the Tuskegee Normal Institute, negro school of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, only nine persons were lynched in the United States during 1936 (up to Dec. 23) and this is the lowest number on record for several years, being 11 less than the number lynched in 1935, six less than in 1934 and 19 less than for the year of 1933. Tennessee had no lynching during this year. Sixty-nine persons were saved from being lynched by action of officers.

Abbeville, S. C. Press and Banner
January 7, 1937

Fewer Lynchings In Year Reported

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 30.—Fewer persons—nine—have been lynched in 1936 than any of the last four years, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said today.

All the 1936 victims, a report from the institute's department of records and research said, were negroes and all were killed in the south.

Officers saved 35 from mobs, the report continued, 30 in Southern and five in Northern states. Armed force was used against five mobs, Dr. Patterson said, and prisoners were removed or guards augmented to forestall mass action in other cases.

Lynch totals for previous years were announced as 20 in 1935; 15 in 1934, and 28 in 1933.

Offenses charged against lynch victims this year were: Rape, 3; attempted rape, 1; activity in sharecropper strike, 1; and charge not reported, 1.

Lynching by states:

Georgia, 5; Arkansas, 2; Florida. 1: Mississippi. 1.

Lynchings-1936
6
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. -Dec.

5476

5476

Homestead, Fla. Enterprise

JAN 1 1937

TUSKEGEE REPORTS ON LYNCHINGS

Editor Leader-Enterprise:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1936. I find according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; six less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails; and four, from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and 30 in southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, seven white and 62 negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, three; attempted rape, three; murder, one; activity in share cropper strike, one; charge not reported, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, two; Florida, one; Georgia, five; Mississippi, one.

F. D. Patterson, president.

Tuskegee Institute, Dec. 23, 1936.

CLANTON, ALA., UNION-BANNER
DEC. 31, 1936 J5

REPORT ON LYNCHINGS DURING PAST YEAR

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., Dec. 23.—according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number, 20, for 1935; 6 less than the number, 15, for 1934; and 19 less than the number, 28, for 1933. Of the persons lynched, 6 were in the hands of the law! 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Of these, 5 were in northern states and 30 in southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 negroes. The offenses charged were: at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were negros The offenses charged were: Rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida. 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

BIRMINGHAM ALA. AGE-HERALD
DEC. 30. 1936 J4

Lynchings In 1936

President Patterson, of Tuskegee Institute, gives out an important re~~port prepared~~ by the institution's department of records and research in regard to lynchings in the year now ending.

The number of lynchings this year was nine. All the victims were Negroes. This compares with 20 lynchings in 1935, 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933. Not a single lynching was reported in Alabama this year. Five lynchings occurred in Georgia, two in Arkansas, one in Florida and one in Mississippi.

"The return of better business conditions," Dr. Patterson said, "removed a feeling of unrest, which is more apt to lead to violence than under ordinary conditions.

"Better racial feeling and better understanding, both promoted by continuous educational campaigns, also contributed to the better showing.

"The fine attitude of government officials and law enforcement agencies, such as the prompt and fearless action of Gov. Bibb Graves, of Alabama, in several instances, ended several threatening situations.

"We hope, and have reason to believe, this trend away from mob action will continue."

Dr. Patterson undoubtedly, in part, bases his hope for a continued trend away from mob action on the record of Alabama this year. On more than one occasion mobs have threatened to blacken this state's record, but in every instance the mob has been dispelled and its action roundly denounced. Alabama is determined to destroy the mob spirit. It has started valiantly.

BIRMINGHAM ALA. NEWS
DEC. 27, 1936

LYNCHINGS SHOW MARKED DECREASE

Nine In Nation, All Negroes, Put To Death By Mobs, During Last Year

Lynchings in the United States during 1936 showed a marked decline from the previous year records compiled by the department of records and ~~research at Tuske~~gee Institute reveal, according to F. D. ~~Patterson, pres~~ident of institution.

There were nine persons, all Negroes, lynched in this country during 1936 as compared with 20 who met a similar fate in 1935 and 15 in 1934. In 1933, 28 persons met death by lynching.

Of those lynched in 1936 six persons were in custody of the law at the time, two of them being taken from jails and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances during 1936 in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, with five of such instances occurring in Northern states and the remaining 30 in Southern states, according to records of the Tuskegee Institute. In 30 of such instances the prisoners were either removed, guards augmented or other precautions taken while armed force was used in the other five cases to prevent lynchings. A total of 69 persons, seven white and 62 Negroes, were thus saved from death by lynchings at the hands of mobs.

The offenses charged against the nine Negroes lynched in 1936 ranged from rape, attempted rape and murder to activity in a sharecropper strike.

The institute records show of the nine lynchings two were in Arkansas; one in Florida, five in Georgia, and one in Mississippi, giving Alabama a clean record in this respect during the year.

MONTGOMERY, ALA., JOURNAL
DEC. 28, 1936 D31

DROP IS SHOWN IN LYNCHINGS

Tuskegee Reports Nine Slain by Mobs in 1936 in Southern States

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TUSKEGEE, Ala. Dec. 28.—Nine persons were lynched during 1936 and officers prevented 35 other lynchings, Dr. F. D. Patterson, ~~president of Tuske~~gee institute, said today. All the lynch victims were negroes, and the lynchings occurred in southern states, a report from the department of records and research at Tuskegee revealed. Fewer lynchings took place in 1936 than during any of the last four years, Dr. Patterson reported. This year's nine slain was 11 less than in 1935, six less than in 1934, and 19 less than in 1933.

Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails and four from officers of the law outside of jails, the report said. Officers prevented five lynchings in northern states and 30 in the south, Dr. Patterson said, using armed force to repel lynch mobs in five cases. Prisoners were removed or guards augmented to forestall the other lynchings, he reported. Seven of the prisoners were white men.

Offenses charged against the lynch victims, all of whom were negroes, were criminal attack, 3; attempted attack, 3; murder, 1; activity in sharecropper strike, 1; charge not reported 1. States in which lynchings took place were Arkansas 2, Florida 1; Georgia 5; Mississippi 1.

Abbeville

FLORENCE, ALA., HERALD
DEC. 31, 1936 J6

Nine Lynchings During Year 1936

Below is the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1936. It is found according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that ~~there were 9 persons lynched in 19~~36. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails:

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the other 5 instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons 7 white and 62 Negros were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attmpted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi 1.

MOBILE ALA. PRESS
DEC. 28, 1936

Lynchings Decrease In U. S. During Year

TUSKEGEE, Ala. Dec. 28.—(U.P.)—There ~~were nine ly~~nchings in the United States in 1936.

The records compiled by the Tuskegee Institute here showed that all the victims were negroes.

There were 20 lynchings last year, 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933, the annual report of the institute showed.

Five of this year's lynchings were in Georgia. Arkansas had two and there was one in Mississippi and one in Florida.

The report said officers prevented 35 lynchings this year. Five were prevented in northern states and 30 in the South.

Florence, Ala., Herald
January 8, 1937

ONLY NINE LYNCHINGS

According to the Tuskegee Institute annual bulletin on the subject, only 9 persons were lynched in the United States last year, the smallest number in any year except one since records have been kept, that being 1932, when there were only 8 lynchings.

All 9 persons lynched in 1936 were Negroes, and the offenses charged were: Rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1. Lynchings occurred in the following states: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Figures compiled at Tuskegee indicate that officers of the law saved 69 persons from death at the hands of mobs during the year, and of this number 7 were white.

The crime of lynching has greatly decreased in recent years due largely to increased vigilance on the part of officers of the law and especially through prompt removal of certain classes of suspected criminals to more secure prisons at a considerable distance from the localities where these crimes were committed.

Lynching in the United States reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white. During the last five years lynchings have occurred as follows: In 1932, 8; in 1933, 28; in 1934, 15; in 1935, 20; in 1936, 9.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and is a reflection upon any communty in which it occurs. No good citizen will participate in or condone mob murder.

Bayonne, N. J. Times

JAN 6 1937

REPORT ON 1936 LYNCHINGS

Editor, The Bayonne Times,

Dear Sir: I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1936. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were nine persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; six less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails, and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and 30 in southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precaution taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, seven white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were Negroes.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, two; Florida, one; Georgia, five; Mississippi, one.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President Tuskegee Normal
and Industrial Institute.

Elba, Ala Clipper

DEC. 31, 1936 J6

DROP SHOWN IN LYNCHINGS; TUSKEGEE REPORTS 9 SLAIN

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28.—Nine persons were lynched during 1936 and officers prevented 35 other lynchings, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said today. All the lynch victims were negroes, and the lynchings occurred in Southern States, a report from the department of records and research at Tuskegee revealed. Fewer lynchings took place in 1936 than during any of the last four years, Dr. Patterson reported. This year's nine slain was 11 less than in 1935, six less than in 1934, and 19 less than in 1933.

Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails and four from officers of the law outside of jails the report said. Officers prevented five lynchings in Northern States and 30 in the South, Dr Patterson said, using armed force to repel lynch mobs in five cases Prisoners were removed or guards augmented to forestall the other lynchings, he reported. Seven of the prisoners were white men.

Offenses charged against the lynch victims, all of whom were negroes, were criminal attack, 3; attempted attack, 3; murder, 1; activity in sharecropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1. States in which lynchings took place were Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

OWENSBORO, KY., INQUIRER
JAN. 1, 1937 J6

LYNCHINGS DECREASE

It is gratifying to note that fewer persons were lynched in the United States this year than during any of the last four years. The report comes from Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute. During 1936 all mob victims were negroes: Georgia has five to her discredit, Arkansas two, Florida and Mississippi each one. This total of nine is comparable favorably with the twenty who died by mob violence last year, with the fifteen in 1934, and the 28 in 1933.

This is the darker side of the picture. But during the year officers of the law saved 35 from mobs, yet found it necessary to use armed force against only five. It seems a fair assumption that lynching is becoming no longer "fashionable." Officers of the law are more alert in overtaking offenders; speedy cruisers, highway patrols and the radio all help. Courts more and more are growing intolerant of needless delays in bringing criminals to trail and impatient with a defense that is built on technicalities. These undoubtedly are contributing factors.

COLO. SPGS. (COLO.) WK. GAZETTE
DEC. 31, 1936 J6

LYNCHINGS

Tuskegee institute reports that in 1936 there were only nine persons lynched; and satisfaction will be found in the fact. The number is 11 less than that for 1935, six less than in 1934 and 19 less than in 1933. Moreover, lynch law prevailed in only four states this year, all in the south. Arkansas reports two lynchings Florida, one; Georgia, five, and Mississippi, one. In each instance, the victim was a negro.

But the record, after all, is a matter of circumstance, and not, to any large degree, at least, the result of education or preventive measures. Six of the persons lynched this year were in the hands of the law when seized, two being taken from jails and four from officers outside jails. Against this fact stand 35 instances in which officers prevented lynchings, mostly thru strategem, but in five instances by use of armed force to repel mobs.

The lynching record stands as a black mark against the nation; yet beyond certain limits there is not much to be done about it. Peculiarly revolting crimes arouse mob passion and bring mob reprisals. That is not a trait peculiar to this country, tho it finds different expression elsewhere. The really serious side of the problem is that when mob law is resorted to in some flagrant cases, it is apt also to be resorted to in some lesser case. It is against this that the nation must guard.

WASHINGTON PA REPORTER
TUESDAY. DECEMBER 29, 1936

Tuskegee Institute Records Show Real Decrease in Lynching

F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, has sent out the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1936: According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 9 persons lynched in 1936—11 less than the 20 for 1935—6 less than the 15 for 1934, and 19 less than the 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails, and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings—five of these in Northern states and five in Southern states. In 30 instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances armed force was used to repel would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, seven White and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were Neroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state is as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Missippi. 1.

ALEXANDER CITY, ALA., OUTLOOK
DEC. 31, 1936 J4

Alabama Clear In Lynching, 1936

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28, 1936.

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1936. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Yours very truly,
F. D. PATTERSON, President.

Seneca, S. C., Journal
December 31, 1936

Nine Persons Lynched During The Year 1936

According to information sent out from the Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala., nine persons were lynched during the year 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails, and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Jan.—Dec.

Lynchings-1936
Reports on, Sent Press.

5477

ONEIDA, TENN., NEWS
JAN. 1, 1937 J6

LYNCHING RECORD IS GIVEN FOR YEAR 1936

Statistics Compiled by Tuskegee Institute of Ala.

The Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute shows that there were ~~9 persons lynch~~ed in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails, and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, seven white and 62 negro, were thus saved from death at the hand of mobs.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, three; attempted rape, three; murder, one; activity in share cropper strike, one; charge not reported, one.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, two; Florida, one; Georgia, five; Mississippi, one.

ANDALUSIA, ALA., STAR
DEC. 31, 1936 J6

Only Nine Persons Lynched In 1936

According to the records complied in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 9 per~~sons lynched in 1935~~. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of the jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augemented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 negroes, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 2; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Billings, Mont., Times
THURSDAY, DECEMRER 31, 1936

INSTITUTE REPORTS ON LYNCHINGS FOR YEAR

According to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee institute, at Tuskegee, Alabama, ~~there were~~ nine ~~persons lynched~~ in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; six less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails, and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings Five of these were in northern states and 30 in southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, seven white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, three; attempted rape, three; murder, one; activity in share cropper strike, one; charge not reported, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, two; Florida, one; Georgia, five; Mississippi, one.

MONTGOMERY ALA., ADVERTISER
DEC. 29, 1936 J2

SHARP DECREASE IN LYNCHINGS NOTED

Tuskegee President Lists Factors Responsible For Good Record In 1936

TUSKEGEE, ALA., Dec. 28.—(AP)—The return of prosperity, better racial relations and excellent work by law enforcement agencies were given today by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, as prime factors in the sharp reduction in lynchings in 1936.

The Institute's department of records and research announced deaths from mob violence dropped to nine, all negroes and all in Southern states, this yea as compared to 20 in 1935, 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933.

Dr. Patterson said "the return of better business conditions removed a feeling of unrest, which is more apt to lead to violence than under ordinary conditions."

"Better racial feeling and better understanding, both promoted by continuous educational campaigns, also contributed to the better showing," he said.

"The fine attitude of Government officials and law enforcement agencies, such as the prompt and fearless action of Gov. Graves, of Alabama, in several instances, ended several threatening situations," Dr. Patterson said.

"We hope, and have reason to believe," he said, "this trend away from mob action will continue."

Lynchings reported by the Institute, by states:

Georgia 5; Arkansas 2; Florida 1; Mississippi 1.

Thirty-five persons were saved from possible mob action, the report said, including five in Northern states. Armed force was used in five instances.

In Atlanta, Dr. R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, said "the decrease in the number of lynchings is a distinctly encouraging thing.

"It is obviously due to the educational campaigns being carried on by the churches, newspapers and various organizations. Officers are responding to enlightened public opinion, and doing a great deal more to prevent lynching."

PARIS (KY) BOURBON NEWS
DEC. 29, 1936 J2

LYNCHING FIGURES

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were ~~9 persons lynched in~~ 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negroes, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

New Richland, Minn., Star
FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1937

ONLY NINE LYNCHINGS

According to the ~~Tuskegee~~ Institute annual bulletin on the subject, only nine persons were lynched in the United States last year, the smallest number in any year except one since records have been kept, that being in 1932, when there were only 8 lynchings.

All persons lynched in 1936 were Negroes, and the offenses charged were: Rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1; Lynchings occured in the following states: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Figures compiled at Tuskegee indicate that officers of the law saved 69 persons from death at the hands of mobs, during the year, and of this number 7 were white.

The crime of lynching has greatly decreased in recent years, due to increased vigilance on the part of officers of the law, and especially through prompt removal of certain classes of suspected criminals to more secure prisons at a considerable distance from the localities where these crimes were committed.

Lynching in the United States reached its most frightful height in 1882, when no less than 221 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white. During the last five years lynchings have occured as follows: In 1932, 8; in 1933, 28; in 1934, 15; in 1935, 20; in 1936, 9.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and is a reflection upon any community in which it occurs. No good citizen will participate in or condone mob murder.

Camden, N.J. Argus

DEC 31 1936

FEWER LYNCHINGS

Marked Reduction In Crime Is Shown by Report

F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, in Alabama, finds that according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute there were nine persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than 15 for 1934; and 19 less than 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern and 30 in southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1. The states in which lynchings occurred were: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

CORBIN, KY. [illegible] TRIBUNE
DEC. 29, 1936 J7

LYNCHING REPORT

To The Editor:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1936. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936 This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of there were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

....Yours Very Truly ....
F. D. PATTERSON
President

HOT SPRINGS, ARK., SENTINEL
DEC. 31, 1936 J7

LYNCHINGS CAN BE STOPPED

Announcement by the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that only nine persons were lynched in the United States in 1936 shows a reduction of more than 50 per cent in such crimes as compared with the year 1935. There were 20 lynchings in 1935.

Record is made of 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, five of these having occurred in Northern states and 30 in Southern states. In 30 of these instances prisoners either were removed to places of safety or other precautions were taken for their protection. In five instances armed military force was used to repel mobs. In these 35 instances a total of 69 persons were saved from death at the hands of mobs. Seven of these were white persons and 62 were negroes.

The record shows a steady decrease in the number of lynchings over a period of years, and a steady increase in the number of times officers of the law have been successful in resisting the aggressiveness of mobs.

There is no excuse for any lynching at any time, and the success of officers in stopping mobs on 35 different occasions shows that prisoners can be protected and mob action frustrated if peace officers show sufficient disposition to protect their prisoners, and determination to see that the mob spirit of vengeance does not result in the commission of new crimes of violence.

The fact that some man, white or black, has committed some crime that arouses public indignation creates no license for other men to commit an additional crime of murder.

The officers who successfully resisted angry mobs and saved the lives of their prisoners deserve commendation. Their example is one for emulation by other officers should circumstances arise that make drastic action necessary.

WATERBURY, CONN. DEMOCRAT

DEC 29 1936

FEWER LYNCHINGS IN UNITED STATES

Without comment the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute of Alabama submits the following news item to the Democrat. It is an indictment of lynching in the United States. The communication of T. D. Patterson, president, reads as follows:

I send you the following information concerning lynching for the year 1936. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mob.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

BEAUMONT TEX. ENTERPRISE
DEC. 30, 1936 J7

LYNCHING IN THE SOUTH

For once, the south is unable to point to the annual lynching statistics and tell northern critics that "Lynching is not confined to the southern states." The records for 1936, as compiled at Tuskegee institute, show that all of this year's lynchings occurred in the south. Since the south monopolized lynchings in 1936, it is not surprising that all the victims were negroes.

While statistics can be cited to prove that lynchings occur in all parts of the country, the total number in the south is much greater than in any other part of the United States. This abhorrent crime is in one sense a national problem, but peculiarly concerns one section of the country.

From 1889 to 1933 Alabama had 303 lynchings, Arkansas 239, Florida 239, Georgia 458, Kentucky 163, Louisiana 338, Mississippi 462, Tennessee 206, South Carolina 137, Texas 349. No other states in the Union had a lynching record anything like as black as the records of the southern and border states. In the period referred to lynchings in the United States totaled 3608, but of this number the south had 2894. Out of 48 states of the Union, 10 had 2894 lynchings and the other 38 states had 714 in a period of 44 years. In the 14-year period, 1922-1935, there were 294 lynchings in the United States. The south had 279. The statistics for 1936 are encouraging in one respect. Only nine persons were lynched.

In 1935, according to a pamphlet issued by the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, of the 89 persons saved from lynching, 75 were "living in the southern states, including Missouri." During that year Georgia, which has an unenviable lynching record and leads the list of southern states in which persons were lynched this year prevented 20 lynchings. Texas prevented five. The total number of lynchings for the year was 20, all but one in the south.

NEW ORLEANS LA. STATES
DEC. 29, 1936 D31

Lynchings in 1936

THE report of President PATTERSON of the Tuskegee Institute on the lynching record of 1936 again is favorable, particularly because it shows a downward trend for three successive years, and that of the 11 Southern states mob executions took place in only four; and especially gratifying to Louisianians who deplore the substitution of mob law for judicial process that this state had not even a single lynching.

The total for the year was nine. This is less by 11 than the 20 in 1935; six less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 in 1933. Six of the lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails, four from officers of the law outside of jails.

In 35 cases officers of the law blocked lynchings. Five of these cases were in the North, 30 in the South, which reflects the growing disposition of Southern officials to do their duty. By these efforts of officials, 69 persons, seven white and 62 negro, were saved from death at the hands of mobs. All those lynched were negroes. The crimes charged were criminal assault, three; attempted criminal assault, three; murder, one; activity in share-cropping strike, one; charge unreported, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred were Arkansas, two; Florida, one; Georgia, five; Mississippi, one; meaning that in seven of 11 Southern states there were none.

We welcome the very favorable 1936 record as timely and needful. It was no secret that plans were afoot to press vigorously next year for the federal antilynching law at the coming session of Congress, the bill that Southern senators, with the help of men like Mr. BORAH and the use of a filibuster, managed to kill in the last session.

An unusually bad record for 1936 would have been of great help to the proponents in reviving that bill. A very favorable report, with only four states involved, should have a reverse effect.

Torrington, Conn. Register

JAN 4 1937

PREVENTED LYNCHINGS

The lynching record is low again, after four bad years. The total for 1936 is nine. It was 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

There is a hopeful development in the situation. Increasingly lynchings are prevented. The prevention figures are not yet available for 1936, but in 1935 more than 80 persons were saved from mob violence. Some of these were protected by officers of the law who employed extra guards for the purpose. Sometimes a prisoner was quickly and secretly moved to a different location until the vengeful mania died out.

Mob wrath develops and spreads quickly, sometimes with slight provocation. The job of controlling, calming or dispersing a mob is not easy, but has often been well done, showing that it is quite possible where authorities are courageous and intelligent.

Lynchings-1936
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan.-Dec.

5478

Helena, Mont., Independent
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1937

ORCHIDS FOR THE SOUTH

Attorney General E. K. Matson told The Independent Sunday that he had received a letter from the Tuskegee Institution, which seems to keep the books on lynchings, that during the year of 1936, only nine negroes had met death at the hands of mobs. But it should be remarked that the record shows we had nine too many, even though it was eleven less than in 1935.

Furthermore, there were thirty-five cases in which courageous officers of the law prevented attempted lynchings; and thirty of these cases were recorded in the deep south. Altogether, sixty-nine people—all but seven of them colored—were saved from violence at the hands of mobs.

It is cause for congratulation, that record. And it emphasizes a fact which northern critics too often overlook—that the average southern official, supported by the sentiment of his own locality, is aware of his duty and brave enough to carry it out.

Key West, Fla., Citizen
January 8, 1937

ONLY NINE LYNCHINGS

According to the Tuskegee Institute annual bulletin on the subject, only 9 persons were lynched in the United States last year, the smallest number in any year excelt one since records have been kept, that being 1932, when there were only 8 lynchings.

All 9 persons lynched in 1936 were Negroes, and the offenses charged were: Rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1. Lynchings occurred in the following states: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Figures compiled at Tuskegee indicate that officers of the law saved 69 persons from death at the hands of mobs during the year, and of this number 7 were white.

The crime of lynching has greatly decreased in recent years, due largely to increased vigilance on the part of officers of the law, and especially through prompt removal of certain classes of suspected criminals to more secure prisons at a considerable distance from the localities where these crimes were committed.

Lynching in the United States reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white. During the last five years lynchings have occurred as follows: In 1932, 8; in 1933, 28; in 1934, 15; in 1935, 20; in 1936, 9.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and is a reflection upon any community in which it occurs. No good citizen will participate in or condone mob murder

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BATON ROUGE LA. STATE TIMES
DEC. 30. 1936 J4

FEW LYNCHINGS THIS YEAR

From the Shreveport Daily Journal comes this note on the number of lynchings this year:

"From figures furnished by the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, it is found the lynching record for 1936 is the smallest for a number of years. During the year just closing there have been but nine instances in which mobs took the law into their own hands, and five of these cases were reported from the state of Georgia; two were in Arkansas, while Mississippi and Florida reported one each. All of the victims were negroes, and in six of the cases the charge was rape or attempted rape. One was charged with murder, one with activity in a share-cropper strike and in one instance the cause was not given.

"In addition to the improved record as to number of lynchings, however, the negro school committee reports that there were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented mob violence, and 30 of these cases were in Southern states. A total of 69 lives, 7 white and 62 negroes, was saved by action of these officers, who were compelled in five instances to use armed force.

"The Journal is very glad, indeed, to note the state of Louisiana has a clean slate on the lynching matter for the year 1936, and hopes that never again will the spirit of the mob prevail against orderly enforcement of the law."

Durant, Miss. News
December 21, 1936

LYNCHINGS DECLINE STEADILY

The number of lynchings occuring each year is steadily declining according to information received from Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute at Tuskegee, Alabama. This is a credit to the American people and to the south in particular where the largest number of lynchings have taken place previously. It is a good sign that our people are thinking more on the lines of law enforcement rather than mob action

According to the Tuskegee record there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Six of the pesons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern states and 30 in Southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1. The States in which lynchings occured and the number in each state are: Arkansas 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Let us hope that in 1937 there won't be even one lynching to the credit of Mississippi.

GREENWOOD, MISS., COMMONWEALTH
DEC. 28, 1936 J1

FEWER LYNCHINGS

The Tuskegee Institute in announing its annual report on lynchings declares that nine persons were lynched in 1936, which is less than in any of the last four years. All of the lynched were in the south.

On the other side of the picture, however officers saved 35 persons from mobs, thirty in the south and five in the north.

Lynch totals for previous years were announced as 20 in 1935; 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933.

Offenses charged against lynch victims

this year; rape 3; attempted rape 3; murder 1; activity in share cropper strike 1; and charge not reported 1. The lynchings by states was Georgia 5; Arkansas 2; Florida 1; Mississippi 1.

In one particular at least the compilation is not verified. The alleged lynching for shareropper strike activity in Arkansas has never been proved and has been vigorously denied.

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altham, Mass. News

DEC 30 1936

Mob Violence in 1936.

Nine persons were lynched in the United States during 1936, according to a summary of lynching records just released by the Tuskegee Institute. All of the victims were Negroes and all of the lynchings took place in southern states.

This is nearly a low record for the 54 years during which the Institute has compiled statistics. The year 1932 produced the best record, when only eight lynchings took place. In 1935 there were 20; in 1934, 15, and in 1933, 28. There has been a generally steady improvement in this class of crime since 1901, when the number of mob victims dropped below the 100-mark for the second time and has not since touched that figure.

In the state of Georgia which in the last quarter century has vied with Mississippi for the dubious title of lynch law leader, five of the 1936 lynchings occurred. There were two in Arkansas, and one each in Mississippi and Florida. Rape or attempted rape were charged against six of the victims; one was charged with murder; one of participation in a share cropper strike; while in one instance the charge was not reported. Six of the nine men lynched were taken by mobs from the hands of the law.

The Tuskegee Institute's compilation also cites 35 instances this year in which officials prevented lynchings and saved the lives of 69 prisoners from death at the hands of lawless groups.

Although the lynching record of the current year cannot be a source of any pride, and can never be as long as one lynching occurs in any year in any of the 48 states, it reflects the results of continued efforts on the part of law enforcement officers to suppress mob rule and to extend protection of the law to prisoners awaiting trial.

VICKSBURG, MISS., POST
DEC. 30, 1936

Lynching Statistics

F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute has sent out statistics relative to the lynchings in this county during the year. Mississippi reported a single lynching of the 9 reported.

According to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law: 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in northern states and 30 in southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 negroes, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occured and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

SHREVEPORT LA. JOURNAL
DEC. 28, 1936

Few Lynchings This Year.

From figures furnished by the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, it is found the lynching record for 1936 is the smallest for a number of years. During the year just closing there have been but nine instances in which mobs took the law into their own hands, and five of these cases were reported from the state of Georgia; two were in Arkansas, while Mississippi and Florida reported one each. All of the victims were negroes, and in six of the cases the charge was rape or attempted rape. One was charged with murder, one with activity in a share-cropper strike and in one instance the cause was not given.

In addition to the improved record as to number of lynchings, however, the negro school committee reports that there were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented mob violence, and 30 of these cases were in Southern states. A total of 69 lives, 7 white and 62 negroes, was saved by action of these officers, who were compelled in five instances to use armed force.

The Journal is very glad, indeed, to note the state of Louisiana has a clean slate on the lynching matter for the year 1936, and hopes that never again will the spirit of the mob prevail against orderly enforcement of the law.

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rlando, Fla. Sta

JAN 2 1937

Less Lynchings

For the year 1936, there were 11 less lynchings than in 1935. Nine persons lost their lives the past year at the hands of mobs. All of the nine executed were negroes.

According to the record made public by Tuskegee Institute, officers of the law prevented lynchings in thirty-five cases, five of these were in northern States and thirty in southern territory.

This shows a greater regard for protecting prisoners than in the past. As long as men have emotions, and criminals continue to commit crimes which arouse those emotions, there will be attempts to lynch. Authorities however, can lessen the desire of mobs to take the law into their own hands by insisting on prompt prosecution of the criminals and employing a strong hand in meting out justice to the guilty.

Reidsville; N. C. Review
January 12, 1937

ONLY NINE LYNCHINGS

According to the Tuskogee Institute, annual bulletin on the subject, only 9 persons were lynched in the United States last year, the smallest number in any year except one since records have been kept, that being 1932, when there were only 8 lynchings.

All 9 persons lynched in 1936 were negroes, and the offenses charged were Rape, 3* attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1. Lynchings occurred in the following states: Arkansas, 2; Florida 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Figures compiled at Tuskogee indicate that officers of the law saved 69 persons from death at the hands of mobs during the year, and of this number 7 were white.

The crime of lyching has greatly decreased in recent years, due largely to increased vigilance on the part of officers of the law, and especially through prompt removal of certain classes of suspected criminals to more secure prisons at a considerable distance from the localities where these crimes were committed.

Lynchings in the United States reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white. During the last five years lynchings have occurred as follows: In 1932, 8; in 1933, 28; in 1934, 15; in 1935, 20; in 193[illegible]

SPRINGFIELD ILL. REGISTER
FRIDAY JANUARY 8 1937

MOB SAVAGERY WANING?

According to figures supplied by Tuskegee Institute, the year 1936 had the lowest number of lynchings in half a century, with one exception. There were only nine victims of this fiendish outlawry during the period, and that was one more than was recorded in 1932, which had the best record in our history.

For a number of years past there has been a steady decline in such outrages, but the fact that they persist in this country is a painful reminder that the forces of intolerance, ignorance and racial prejudice are still active and that the sense of social responsibility is still weak among certain elements of our population.

Sociological authorities are convinced that the best hope of improvement in the situation is predicated upon a systematic campaign of education among both white and colored populations and the cultivation of co-operation between the more enlightened leaders of both races.

Movements in this direction, set on foot by the press and public leaders of the Southern States have exerted a very effective influence and are to be credited with a large share of the results in cutting down the number of lynchings in recent years. Certain outstanding instances of firm stands taken by law-enforcing agencies in this section have electrified the citizenry at large and encouraged new hope that if the opposition continues to be as resolute as it has been in recent years the evil may be eventually wiped out altogether.

Lynchings-1936
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan.-Dec.

5479

ARKADELPHIA, ARK., SIFTINGS
DEC. 31, 1936

EDITORIAL

Lynchings Can Be Stopped

Announcement by the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that only nine persons were lynched in the United States in 1936 shows a reduction of more than 50 per cent in such crimes as compared with the year 1935. There were 20 lynchings in 1935.

Record is made of 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, five of these having occurred in Northern states and 30 in Southern states. In 30 of these instances prisoners either were removed to places of safety or other precautions were taken for their protection. In five instances armed military force was used to repel mobs. In these 35 instances a total of 69 persons were saved from death at the hands of mobs. Seven of these were white persons and 62 were negroes.

The record shows a steady decrease in the number of lynchings over a period of years, and a steady increase in the number of times officers of the law have been successful in resisting the aggressiveness of mobs.

There is no excuse for any lynching at any time, and the success of officers in stopping mobs on 35 different occasions shows that prisoners can be protected and mob action frustrated if peace officers show sufficient disposition to protect their prisoners and determination to see that the mob spirit of vengeance does not result in the commission of new crimes of violence.

The fact that some man, white or black, has committed some crime that arouses public indignation creates no license for other men to committ an additional crime of murder.

The officers who successfully resisted angry mobs and saver the lives of their prisoners deserve commendation. Their example is one for emulation by other officers should circumstances arise that make drastic action necessary.

—Texarkana Gazette

LANCASTER (O.) EAGLE GAZ.
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1936

A GOOD OMEN

IS America finally coming to its senses regarding the horror and illegality of lynching? Latest statistics for 1936 would seem so. Records from the Tuskegee Institute, compiled yearly by an interested faculty, show decided decreases in "rope" deaths over both the northern and southern sections of the country.

The year just closing found nine deaths via hanging by mobs; 1935 total was 20, 1934, 15 and 1933, 28. All victims of mob violence this year were Negroes. Six of the victims were in the hands of officers, three in jail cells when assaulted.

The key to this situation lies not in the number of rope victims but in the number of attempts made. In all, there were 35 instances where officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five cases were reported from northern states and 30 from those areas south of the Mason-and-Dixon line.

Offenses charged and not aired by jury trial in 1936's hangings were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; strike activity, 1; charge unreported, 1. States in which the mobs caroused were Arkansas (2), Florida (1), Georgia (5) and Mississippi (1).

* * *

WHERE the law triumphed and repelled armed mobs, some actually inside jails, 62 Negroes and seven white men were permitted jury trials and eventual convictions or acquittals.

To those who are law-abiding and who harbor a sincere desire that human life be given every chance for survival, these figures should prove inspiring. America is too prolific in good sportsmanship to damn a man before he's heard. Our lynching "black eye" will continue to fade if we can blot out this inhuman method of disposing of crimes by committing another!

MOUNDSVILLE W VA JOURNAL
MONDAY JANUARY 4 1937

ONLY NINE LYNCHINGS

According to the Tuskegee Institute annual bulletin on the subject, only 9 persons were lynched in the United States last year, the smallest number in any year except one since records have been kept, that being 1932, when there were only 8 lynchings.

All 9 persons lynched in 1936 were Negroes, and the offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1. Lynchings occurred in the following states: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Figures compiled at Tuskegee indicate that officers of the law saved 69 persons from death at the hands of mobs during the year, and of this number 7 were white.

The crime of lynching has greatly decreased in recent years, due largely to increased vigilance on the part of officers of the law, and especially through prompt removal of certain classes of suspected criminals to more secure prisons at a considerable distance from the localities where these crimes were committed.

Lynching in the United States reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white. During the last five years lynchings have occurred as follows: In 1932, 8; in 1933, 28; in 1934, 15; in 1935, 20; in 1936, 9.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and is a reflection upon any community in which it occurs. No good citizen will participate in or condone mob murder.

EL DORADO KS. TIMES
DEC. 28, 1936

A BRIGHTER LYNCHING RECORD

The lynching record for 1936 shows improvement both in the comparatively small number of victims and in the large number of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings.

Nine persons met death at the hands of mobs during the year. All were negroes. In 1935, there were 20 lynchings, in 1934, 15; and in 1933, 28. The states in which these nine lynchings occurred were all Southern, as follows. Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1, Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

In 35 instances, officers foiled the objectives of mobs, 30 of these being in Southern states. In 30 of the occasions the prisoners were removed, guards were augmented or other precautions taken. In the other five instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons. seven white and 62 negro, was thus saved from death. Offenses charged in the actual lynchings were: rape 3; attempted rape 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1. The figures are compiled by the Tuskegee Institute.

Any lynchings are reprehensible, but it is a source of satisfaction to know that the number is decreasing and that officers of the law are showing the necessary courage and resourcefulness to prevent them.

Marietta, Ga., Journal
January 6, 1937

ONLY NINE LYNCHINGS

According to the Tuskegee Institute annual bulletin on the subject, only 9 persons were lynched in the United States last year, the smallest number in any year except one since records have been kept, that being 1932, when there were only 8 lynchings.

All 9 persons lynched in 1936 were Negroes, and the offenses charged were: Rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1. Lynchings occurred in the following states: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Figures compiled at Tuskegee indicate that officers of the law saved 69 persons from death at the hands of mobs during the year, and of this number 7 were white.

The crime of lynching has greatly decreased in recent years, due largely to increased vigilance on the part of officers of the law, and especially through prompt removal of certain classes of suspected criminals to more secure prisons at a considerable distance from the localities where these crimes were committed.

Lynching in the United States reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white. During the last five years lynchings have occurred as follows: In 1932, 8; in 1933, 28; in 1934, 15; in 1935, 20; in 1936, 9.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and is a reflection upon any community in which it occurs. No good citizen will participate in or condone mob murder.

LITTLE ROCK ARK. DEMOCRAT
DEC. 29, 1936 J7

LYNCHINGS IN 1936.

F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, of Alabama, has compiled his annual record of lynchings, which not only shows a decrease as compared with 1935, but records an increase in the number of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. The total during the year was nine. To appreciate what that means in the gradual evolution of law and order, comparison with the records of the 90's, when from 78 to 251 was the average, is sufficient.

In his report Patterson says: "I find, according to the records . . . that there were nine persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; six less than the number of 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails, and four from officers of the law outside jails.

"There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern states and 30 in Southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, seven white and 62 negroes, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state follow: Arkansas, two; Florida, one; Georgia, five, and Mississippi, one."

If the lynching record continues to show such a decline, the federal law, which has been agitated for so many years, will have less chance of being adopted. Only by evidence that it is attempting to end the lynching evil can the South convince Congress that the proposed statute is unfair to this section of the country.

FLORENCE, ALA., TIMES
DEC. 29, 1936 J5

The Record Improves

The department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute shows that only nine persons were lynched in the United States during 1936, less than during any recent year, there having been 20 in 1935; 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933.

Particularly encouraging is the statement that officers of the law and other responsible citizens prevented lynchings in 35 instances, which development is almost more encouraging than the actual reduction in lynchings.

Arrest and conviction of persons accused of crimes ordinarily responsible for lynchings and the meting out of sufficient punishment to match the offense will go a long way toward discouraging such riots in which human blood is drawn.

The officers of the law and the courts are to be commended for this improved showing, which, however, is far from perfect. There will be room for improvement just so long as a single person is lynched or a single attempt is made to lynch.

Culpeper, Va., Star
January 7, 1937

PREVENTED LYNCHINGS.

The lynching record is low again, after four bad years. The total for 1936 is nine. It was 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

There is a hopeful development in the situation. Increasingly lynchings are prevented. The figures are not yet available for 1936, but in 1935 more than 80 persons were saved from violence. Some of these were protected by officers of the law who employed extra guards for the purpose. Sometimes a prisoner was quickly and secretly moved to a different location.

Mob wrath develops and spreads quickly, sometimes with slight provocation. The job of controlling, calming or dispersing a mob is not easy, but has often been well done, showing that it is quite possible where authorities are courageous and intelligent.

SELMA, ALA., TIMES-JOURNAL
DEC. 28, 1936 J2

Large Decrease Shown For Lynch Law Deaths

South Has Only Nine Such Slayings During Year, Which Comprises Best Record Since 1932 Tuskegee Announces

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala., Dec. 28—(AP)—Nine persons were lynched during 1936 and officers prevented 35 other lynchings, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said today.

All the lynch victims were negroes, and the lynchings occurred in southern states, a report from the department of records and research at Tuskegee revealed.

Fewer lynchings took place in 1936 than during any of the last four years, Dr. Patterson reported. This year's nine slain was 11 less than in 1935, six less than in 1934, and 19 less than in 1933.

Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails and four from officers of the law outside of jails, the report said.

Officers prevented five lynchings in northern states and 30 in the south, Dr. Patterson said, using armed force to repel lynch mobs in five cases. Prisoners were removed or guards augmented to forestall the other lynchings, he reported. Seven of the prisoners were white men.

Offenses charged against the lynch victims, all of whom were negroes, were rape 3; attempted rape 3; murder 11; activity on sharecropper strike 1; charge not reported 1.

States in which lynchings took place were Arkansas 2; Florida 1; Georgia 5; Mississippi 1.

KANSAS CITY, MO., JOURNAL
JAN. 2, 1937 J4

Reduction in Lynchings.

When Americans deplore the treatment of Jews and political liberals in Germany, Nazis remind them of the lynching of Negroes in this country. It is a retort that cannot be passed over lightly; these mob murders are crimes of which all decent citizens of the United States are ashamed.

Happily, the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial institute, which keeps figures on the matter, is able to report that 11 fewer persons were lynched in 1936 than in 1935. The figure for last year was nine. Even one lynching would be shameful, but the fact that there was some improvement last year arouses the hope at least that the future will bring an end to this barbarism.

While the North is no stranger to mob rule, all of last year's victims were in the South and all of them were Negroes. There were two in Arkansas, one in Florida, five in Georgia and one in Mississippi, leaving five southern states with a clean record for 1936.

However, that does not mean that there was a reduction of mob passions to the extent that the number of fatalities indicates. The Tuskegee institute credits law enforcement officials with having prevented 35 lynchings, thereby saving the lives of 69 persons, 62 of whom were Negroes. In five instances mobs were broken up by force. In the other 30 the prisoners were removed, the guards were increased or other precautions were taken.

In recent years prominent citizens in many southern communities have organized crusades against lynching. They are growing in number. Perhaps in time they will end this vicious evil.

Jan. - Dec.

5480

Lynchings-1936
Reports on, Sent Press.

WILLIAMSPORT (PA) SUN
MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1936

FEWER LYNCHINGS.

F. D. Paterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, makes public his annual report on lynchings. With several days yet to run, 1936 has witnessed nine lynchings. This is 11 less than for 1935, 6 less than for 1934 and 19 less than for 1933. Six of the victims of lynchers were seized by mobs while in the custody of the law. Two were taken from jails. All were Negroes.

The most significant thing about the study of lynchings for the year is that there is revealed a greater determination on the part of officers in southern states to thwart mobs intent upon carrying out their own ideas of justice.

There were no less than 35 instances during the year in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. In 30 instances, prisoners were removed to other communities or guards increased. In the other five instances, armed force was used to repel would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, seven of them white, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Lynchings occurred in but four states. Florida had one, as did Mississippi. Arkansas had two. Georgia had the shameful record of fve. Apparently the officers of the law in that state have not learned so well as have other states that the only way for the South to forestall the enactment of federal legislation imposing severe penalties upon communities allowing lynchings is to show a determniation to prevent mob violence. Perhaps the national attention attracted to the fact that Georgia has had more lynchings this year than all the rest of the states combined will challenge public opinion to demand that officers of the law do their duty in safeguarding prisoners in their custody.

Dothan, Ala., Journal
January 1, 1937

HUMANITY PROGRESSES AS LYNCHINGS DECLINE

Every year Dr. F. D. Paterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, tabulates the lynchings and attempted lynchings in the United States, finding that in 1936 there were nine instances of persons slain by mobs. Officers prevented 35 other lynchings.

Fewer lynchings were reported for 1936 than during any of the last four years. According to Dr. Patterson's report, here's how the lynchings declined: 11 less than in 1935; six less than in 1934; and 19 less than in 1933.

The drop in these cases of mobs taking the law into their own hands, perhaps, could be an indication that the United States is beginning to accept civilization and all the rules that go with it.

Racial hatred, distasteful as that phrase is, apparently still exists when mobs become inflamed. All nine of the lynch victims for 1936 were Negroes and all lynchings took place in Southern states.

This much must be said for the South, even though it must lower its head. Officers prevented 30 lynchings, using armed force in five cases. It appears that only by matching force with force will officers be able to hold down mob murder.

Alexandria, Va. Gazette
January 5, 1937

PREVENTED LYNCHINGS

The lynching record is low again, after four bad years. The total for 1936 is nine. It was 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

There is a hopeful development in the situation. Increasingly lynchings are prevented. The prevention figures are not yet available for 1936, but in 1935 more than 80 persons were saved from mob violence. Some of these were protected by officers of the law who employed extra guards for the purpose. Sometimes a prisoner was quickly and secretly moved to a different location until the vengeful mania died out.

Mob wrath develops and spreads quickly, sometimes with slight provocation. The job of controlling, calming or dispersing a mob is not easy, but has often been well done, showing that it is quite possible where authorities are courageous and intelligent.

Greenwood, Miss. Commonwealth
December 28, 1936

FEWER LYNCHINGS

The Tuskegee Institute in announing its annual report on lynchings declares that nine persons were lynched in 1936, which is less than in any of the last four years. All of the lynched were in the south.

On the other side of the picture, however, officers saved 35 persons from mobs, thirty in the south and five in the north.

Lynch totals for previous years were announced as 20 in 1935; 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933.

Offenses charged against lynch victims this year; rape 3; attempted rape 3; murder 1; activity in share cropper strike 1; and charge not reported 1. The lynchings by states was Georgia 5; Arkansas 2; Florida 1; Mississippi 1.

In one particular at least the compilation is not verified. The alleged lynching for shareropper strike activity in Arkansas has never been proved and has been vigorously denied.

WILKES-BARRE PA RECORD
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1936

Fewer Lynchings

NINE persons were lynched in the United States in 1936, according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskeegee Institute. All the victims were negroes. The lynching habit dies a slow death but the record of the past year shows if the urge for extra-legal action is still too strong to be resisted in some cases, it is gradually being overcome by a public sentiment educated against the injustice of summary procedure. Authorities are translating that public sentiment into action. Police efforts prevented 35 attempted lynchings during the year. Five of those were in Northern states and 30 in Southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers.

According to the Institute, a total of 69 persons, seven white and 62 negroes, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs. Lynchings are definitely on the wane. For more than 40 years, or up until 1926, the average number of victims annually in the United States was more than 100. During the last decade the record has shown marked improvement. The nine persons lynched in 1936 represent 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; six less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. This year's lynchings were all in the South. Lynchings have decreased to the point of disappearance in the East and the West. With denser populations have come stronger civil institutions. The same trend evidently is now to be noted in the South.

New Orleans, La., Item
December 29, 1936

Lynching

TUSKEGEE Institute reports that nine persons have been lynched this year. That is eleven less than last year, six less than in 1934, and 19 less than 1933. This marks a great improvement, but is none too good at that. We won't be completely civilized until we go through the year without any lynching at all.

Another aspect of the matter also shows great advance. Law officers prevented 35 lynchings this year, 30, of these occasions being in the South. In five of these cases armed force was employed against mobs. Some 62 Negroes and five white persons were saved from outlaws in these 35 cases.

Georgia won the dishonorable eminence at the head of the lynching-roster, with five of these crimes. Arkansas permitted two of them, Florida and Mississippi one each.

No better New Year resolution could be made than for every intelligent and humane citizens to undertake to use all the influence he has in the community where he lives to reduce this year's record of barbarism as near as possible to a blank.

Athens, Ga., Banner-Herald
January 5, 1937

NUMBER OF LYNCHINGS DECREASED

In 1936, the number of lynchings occurring in the United States was nine, eleven less than the record for 1935, which was reported as twenty.

Of the total number of lynchings last year, Georgia is credited with five, Arkansas 2; Florida 1 and Mississippi 1. The offenses charged against those lynched were assault, 3; attempted assault, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike 1, and charge not reported 1. The report further shows that it was six less than in 1934 and nine less than in 1933. There were thirty-five instances in which officers prevented lynchings. In thirty of the instances the prisoners were removed, the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed forces was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of sitxy-nine persons, seven white and sixty-two negroes, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

While Georgia leads in lynchings for 1936, yet the records show for the past decade a steady decline of such law-less occurrences. However, we hope the time will come when this state will be free from lynchings, but we can not help but feel that until the crime of rape ceases, there will occur lynchings in this and and other states, that unpardonable violation of the law.

PARKERSBURG W VA NEWS
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1936

CONCERNING LYNCHINGS

The News receives again a letter from F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, founded by Booker T. Washington for the training of colored young men and women, containing information concerning lynchings for the year 1936.

The institute's report says there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is eleven less than the number of 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number of 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number of 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and 30 in southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas. 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Valdosta, Ga., Times
January 4, 1937

LYNCHING IN 1936

The lynching record in the United States for 1936, was on the whole, good, but Georgia's part in it was far from being satisfactory. There were nine lynchings in the entire nation and Georgia was the scene of five of them. Only four states had lynchings.

A sincere effort has been made to wipe out lynchings and in recent years, much progress has been made. There has been a rapid change in attitude toward these affairs. A short time ago lynchings were taken as a matter of course. Newspapers reported them with little comment. But, this is being rapidly changed. Officers have been making an earnest effort to prevent them and there are numerous incidents where state officers have stood firm against the demand of mobs who were intent on lynching.

Discussing the 1936 lynching record with particular reference to Georgia's part therein, The Moultrie Observer has the following to say:

"Only four states had any lynchings reported at all. Others present a clean slate. How fine it would have been for Georgia to be in that class. This would have meant that only four lynchings occurred during the year. There is encouragement for the future in the fact that officers of the law are more determined to prevent lynchings. They are receiving the encouragement of the courts, the newspapers, the churches and the educators and many others. They are being given very substantial support by governors who have not failed to use the National Guard when it was necessary to protect a prisoner from a mob. Even with the increased vigilance of the officers of the law, six of the nine men lynched this year were in the custody of the law and were taken from the officers or from jails by mobs.

"There is encouragement in the statement that 69 persons were saved from mob violence by the protective arm of the law. Thirty of these instances were in Southern states. Advancing civilization is leading us away form mob law. Georgia must move in that direction."

Selma, Ala. Times
January 5, 1937

LYNCHING AND HARD TIMES

Tuskegee Institute announces that only nine lynchings have taken place in 1936, the smallest number for any year but one since the records began to kept carefully. The one exception was 1932, when there were only eight lynchings.

This is probably an indication of, among other things, returning prosperity. The lynching curve doesn't follow the economic curve exactly, but closely enough to indicate strongly that lynching is, in some measure, a rfelection of economic despair.

In 1890, for instance, when things were going pretty well, the number of lynchings, which had been running in the hundreds, was brought down to 96; but in 1894, when hard times had gripped the country, it rose again to 192. By 1902, when the depression was over, the number sank again to 92 and by 1907 it had been brought down to 60; but 1908, at bitterly hard year, especially in the South saw 97 lynchings. By 1914 the number had come down to 47; but then the war panic prostrated the South for months, and in 1915 there were 75 lynchings. Thereafter the number declined pretty steadily until 1929, when there were 10. Apparently, here was an exception to the rule, for, despite the crash, lynchings continued to decline until 1932, when thewere were only 8; the next year, through, saw a sudden resurgence of the crime, with 28. In 1934, with relief getting in its work, there were 15; in 1935, 16, and this year, with prosperity swiftly increasing, 9.

Here is certainly a strong indication that when people on the lowest economic levels are in the grip of black despair they tend to take it out on Negroes and other more or less helpless victims.—Baltimore Evening Sun.

Birmingham, Ala. News
January 1, 1937

The Lynching Record Shows Improvement

Both in the number of lynchings and also in the number of attempted lynchings prevented by police action was there improvement shown during 1936. Only nine persons, all Negroes, were lynched, according to President F. D. Patterson, of Tuskegee Institute, while lynching attempts were thwarted in 35 instances.

The record of nine lynchings is the lowest for any year with the exception of 1932, when only eight were lynched. The contrast with 20 lynchings in 1935, 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933 encourages a hope that the nation is definitely turned toward reliance upon legal measures for punishing the guilty.

Alabama's own record of no lynchings during the last two years is, of course, highly gratifying. For this record we have to thank officials of the law, since on several occasions mobs sought to take the law into their own hands but were prevented by force. In at least one case in the state, the intended victim of the mob was later acquitted by a white jury in an orderly trial. A few instances like that naturally will give pause to would-be lynchers.

But the foes of lynching will not call their task done until it is as rare here as it is in some European countries where many years may pass by without an illegal execution. We are prone to excuse ourselves in this country on the plea that our lynchings grow out of the race problem, which other countries do not have. But according to Tuskegee Institute records, of the 6,010 persons lynched in the United States since 1882, 27 per cent were white. While the percentage of white victims has been smaller for the last decade or so, there are still white lynchings. Of the 69 persons saved from mobs during 1936, seven were white. The problem is not at all exclusively racial, and it will not be completely solved until it is tackled more on a non-racial basis.

JAMESTOWN N Y MORN POST
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1936

THE LYNCHING RECORD.

In the matter of lynchings the current year makes a much better record than has prevailed heretofore, though an entire absence of such instances of lawlessness would be the desirable condition. The President of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute reports that nine persons suffered disposal in that manner. All were negroes. The states in which these offenses against law and order were committed were Arkansas with two, Florida one, Georgia five and Mississippi one.

However, there is a gratifying feature in that the total number thus lawlessly executed were far less numerous than for some years. There were twenty such cases in 1935 and fifteen in 1934. Yet, the reduced number may not have been due to higher regard for the forms of law and disposition to await action in an orderly way. Had mobs had their way the lynchings apparently would have been far more numerous. There were 35 instances in which officers of the law thwarted the designs of mobs. Five of these cases were in Northern states and thirty in the South. In five instances it was necessary to call for troops.

The lowered lynchings appear to be due in considerable measure at least to the zeal of the custodians of the accused. Greater care than formerly in protecting prisoners against mobs

appears to have been demonstrated. While the record is better than in recent years, the desirable object will not be reached so long as lynching remains as a blot.

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Lynchings-1936
Reports on, Sent Press-

Baton Rouge, La., Times
December 30, 1936

FEW LYNCHINGS THIS YEAR

From the Shreveport Daily Journal comes this note on the number of lynchings this year:

"From figures furnished by the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, it is found the lynching record for 1936 is the smallest for a number of years. During the year just closing there have been but nine instances in which mobs took the law into their own hands, and five of these cases were reported from the state of Georgia; two were in Arkansas, while Mississippi and Florida reported one each. All of the victims were negroes, and in six of the cases the charge was rape or attempted rape. One was charged with murder, one with activity in a share-cropper strike and in one instance the cause was not given.

"In addition to the improved record as to number of lynchings, however, the negro school committee reports that there were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented mob violence, and 30 of these cases were in Southern states. A total of 69 lives, 7 white and 62 negroes, was saved by action of these officers, who were compelled in five instances to use armed force.

"The Journal is very glad, indeed, to note the state of Louisiana has a clean slate on the lynching matter for the year 1936, and hopes that never again will the spirit of the mob prevail against orderly enforcement of the law."

Moultrie, Ga., Observer
January 2, 1937

GEORGIA'S BAD SHOWING

Georgia came near spoiling the lynching record of the United States in 1936. An unusually small number of lynchings have been reported—just nine. While this is a good record for the nation as a whole it is depressing to read that Georgia furnished five of the nine lynchings.

An earnest effort has been made in this state to create a sentiment against mob law and the officers of the law have, as a rule, been faithful to their oaths of office and have tried to prevent lynchings where it has been possible. This year the mobs have stormed against this wall of sentiment and have done violence to law and order. We stand out nationally again, and in an unfavorable manner.

Only four states had any lynchings reported at all. Others present a clean slate. How fine it would have been for Georgia to be in that class. This would have meant that only four lynchings occurred during the year. There is encouragement for the future in the fact that officers of the law are becoming more and more determined to prevent lynchings. They are receiving the encouragement of the courts, the newspapers, the churches and the educators and many others. They are being given very substantial support by governors who have not failed to use the National Guard when it was necessary to protect a prisoner from a mob. Even with the increased vigilance of the officers of the law, six of the nine men lynched this year were in the custody of the law and were taken from the officers or from jails by mobs.

There is encouragement in the statement that 69 persons were saved from mob violence by the protective arm of the law. Thirty of these instances were in Southern states. Advancing civilization is leading us away from mob law. Georgia must move in that direction.

Selma, Ala. Times
January 3, 1937

ORCHIDS FOR SOUTH

One of the excellent records hung up in the year 1936 is the fact that the lynching evil declined substantially. The year saw nine lynchings—and while it may be remarked that that was just nine too many, it should be noticed that it was 11 fewer than 1935's total.

Futhermore, there were 35 cases in which courageous officers of the law prevented attempted lynchings; and 30 of these cases were recorded in the deep south. Altogether, 69 people—all but seven of them colored—were saved from violence at the hands of mobs.

It is cause for congratulation, that record. And it emphasizes a fact which northern critics too often overlook—that the average southern official, supported by the sentiment of his own locality, is aware of his duty and brave enough to carry it out.

Shreveport, La., Journal
December 28, 1936

Few Lynchings This Year.

From figures furnished by the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, it is found the lynching record for 1936 is the smallest for a number of years. During the year just closing there have been but nine instances in which mobs took the law into their own hands, and five of these cases were reported from the state of Georgia; two were in Arkansas, while Mississippi and Florida reported one each. All of the victims were negroes, and in six of the cases the charge was rape or attempted rape. One was charged with murder, one with activity in a share-cropper strike and in one instance the cause was not given.

In addition to the improved record as to number of lynchings, however, the negro school committee reports that there were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented mob violence, and 30 of these cases were in Southern states. A total of 69 lives, 7 white and 62 negroes, was saved by action of these officers, who were compelled in five instances to use armed force.

The Journal is very glad, indeed, to note the state of Louisiana has a clean slate on the lynching matter for the year 1936, and hopes that never again will the spirit of the mob prevail against orderly enforcement of the law.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
December 30, 1936

Mob Violence in 1936

Tuskegee Institute, in its annual report issued Monday, reports nine deaths from mob violence in the United States during 1936, as follows: Georgia 5, Arkansas 2, Florida 1, Mississippi 1. Last year there were 20 lynchings compared with 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933.

The showing for 1936 is the best since records have been compiled with the exception of that in 1932 when there were eight lynchings.

Tuskegee Institute began the compilation of statistics on mob violence in the United States in 1882. Between 1882 and 1934, inclusive, a total of 4,645 persons—1,291 whites and 3,352 negroes—were lynched. The worst year in the history of mob violence was in 1892 when there were 231 lynchings, compared with the second highest total of 211 in 1884. Lynchings in the last decade have totaled 159 in the whole country, a remarkable showing compared with the record of 1882-1891, inclusive, when the number was 1,494.

We seem to be eliminating a great American disgrace. The Institute attributes the record of 1936 to the return of prosperity, excellent work by law enforcement officers and better racial relations. We cannot accept the first of the three explanations because there were only eight lynchings in 1932 when the country had reached the lowest level of depression. We prefer to think that better racial relations and improved law enforcement and observance of law were the real reasons for the excellent showing.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
December 30, 1936

Lynchings In 1936

President Patterson, of Tuskegee Institute, gives out an important report prepared by the institution's department of records and research in regard to lynchings in the year now ending.

The number of lynchings this year was nine. All the victims were Negroes. This compares with 20 lynchings in 1935, 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933. Not a single lynching was reported in Alabama this year. Five lynchings occurred in Georgia, two in Arkansas, one in Florida and one in Mississippi.

"The return of better business conditions," Dr. Patterson said, "removed a feeling of unrest, which is more apt to lead to violence than under ordinary conditions.

"Better racial feeling and better understanding, both promoted by continuous educational campaigns, also contributed to the better showing.

"The fine attitude of government officials and law enforcement agencies, such as the prompt and fearless action of Gov. Bibb Graves, of Alabama, in several instances, ended several threatening situations.

"We hope, and have reason to believe, this trend away from mob action will continue."

Dr. Patterson undoubtedly, in part, bases his hope for a continued trend away from mob action on the record of Alabama this year. On more than one occasion mobs have threatened to blacken this state's record, but in every instance the mob has been dispelled and its action roundly denounced. Alabama is determined to destroy the mob spirit. It has started valiantly.

Greenwood, S. C. Index-Journal
December 28, 1936

X 46

Eleven Less Lynchings in 1936 Than In 1935, Tuskegee Records Show

The Index-Journal has received the following from F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee institute:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1936. I find according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee institute that there were nine persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; six less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and 30 in southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, seven white and 62 negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, three; attempted rape, three; murder, one; activity in sharecropper strike, one; charge not reported, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, two; Florida, one; Georgia, five; Mississippi, one.

Salisbury, N. C. Post
December 29, 1936

FEWER LYNCHINGS

Nine lynchings took place in the United States during 1936, it is reported by Tuskegee Institute, where the nation's most thorough-going records of mob violence are kept.

Nine lynchings collectively constitute a truly microcosmic mathematical matter in a nation where dwell 125,000,000 human beings. Nine lynchings, too, are fewer than the number recorded in any other of the past four years, says Tuskegee. So much for the "consolation" viewpoint of a serious matter.

The realistic viewpoint, especially for Southerners, is not consoling. In the first place a lynching is an evil thing from any standpoint; in the second place, all of the past year's lynchings are charged against Southern states: Georgia 5, Arkansas 2, Florida 1, Mississippi 1.

Loyal Dixie folk will not admit that any record of anything, even lynchings, points to any particular inclination to crime in the South, or to an especial sectional backwardness or instability in contract to the country as a whole.

The worst stigma we agree to accept is that the history of mob violence in this country may indicate a certain regional peculiarity in the South. The problems and difficulties which sometimes find expression in mob violence in southern states are very largely sectional phenomena, and mob violence is a survival of a social structure which once obtained peculiarly in the region of the one-time Confederacy.

Public education in recent years, awakening of social consciousness, and acceptance of social responsibilities by capable men and women have all done much to subdue the latent evils which from time to time breed a cycle of circumstances which culminates in a lynching.

Newspapers, churches, vastly improved police machinery, and alert organizations of responsible southern people may find vindication of long extended efforts in witnessing a decrease of mob violence in the South.

All may find encouragement for continued effort towards the end that the nation's lynching may be depressed to an ideal zero.

Public education, efficient law enforcement agencies, and constant and unflinching publicity point the way to an end of the lynching evil in the United States.

May that day speed upon us!

Washington, D. C. Post
December 29, 1936

Nine Lynched in Year; All in Southern States

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28 (AP).—Fewer persons—nine—were lynched in 1936 than in any of the last four years, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said today.

All the 1936 victims, a report from the institute's department of records and research said, were colered, and all were killed in the South. Officers saved 35 from mobs, the report continued, 30 in Southern and 5 in Northern States. Lynching by States were Georgia, 5; Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Mississippi, 1.

Raleigh, N. C. Observer
December 31, 1936

Less Lynch Law

There is cause for rejoicing that, according to the records kept by Tuskegee Institute, the number of lynchings in 1936 fell to nine, a cheering reduction from the 20 lynchings credited to 1935.

But it is less pleasant to discover that of the nine lynchings, one was ascribed to the victim's activity in a sharecropper strike. It is a popular impression that virtually all lynchings are due to crimes against women, but reliable statistics show that since lynch lawlessness was established in the United States, the number of victims charged with rape is only one-sixth of the total.

Mob action against any man, white or colored, for participation in a strike, industrial or otherwise, is an ominous note. The problem of the relations between men who own the land and men who only work on it is just now a thorny one, having numerous ramifications and possible repercussions. But if it is to be complicated by mob violence, it will be transferred from the sphere of reason to the realm of wild passion. And no question can be handled, much less settled, when the parties to it are enraged and red-eyed.

Eufaula, Ala. Tribune
December 30, 1936

NO LYNCHING IN ALABAMA

According to a report issued by Tuskegee Institute there were fewer lynchings in the United States this year than at any time in recent years. Only nine were recorded in the nation, all in southern states, all negro victims.

The report attributed the sharp decline in mob outbursts to the stabilizing influence of a returned prosperity which finds more persons with jobs, fewer agitators capable of arousing the idle and dissatisfied.

It is interesting to note that there was not a single lynching in Alabama although five were recorded in Georgia, one in Mississippi and one in Florida, all neighbors directly bordering this state. However, only the alert and forceful action of state authorities prevented several serious race riots, and President Patterson, commenting on the smaller total of lynchings, recognized the influence of the government in lessening the toll of life taken unlawfully by mobs. He says: "The fine attitude of government officials and law enforcement agencies, such as the prompt action of Governor Bibb Graves, of Alabama, ended several threatening situations."

Anniston, Ala. Star
December 29, 1936

No Alabama Lynchings

Alabama, with the large portion of her population colored, was without a single blot on her escutcheon in 1936 as far as lynchings were concerned.

Of the nine Negroes who were victims of infuriated mass-murderers this year, five were from Georgia, two from Arkansas, one from Florida and the other from Mississippi. However, the nine deaths was a reduction of eleven from the 20 lynchings of 1935, caused in part by the commendable action on the part of law enforcement officers, who prevented 69 persons in these states from death by unlawful means.

Calhoun County's officials cannot be too highly praised in this regard, for they certainly were directly responsible for preventing at least two such despicable violences during the year.

Tallahassee, Fla. Democrat
December 27, 1936

Lynching Record Shows Marked Improvement

The lynching record for 1936 shows a marked improvement over previous years. There were 9 persons lynched this year, 20 in 1935, 15 in 1934, and 28 in 1933.

Of the persons lynched this year all were negroes and all were in the southern states: 2 in Arkansas, 1 in Florida 5 in Georgia, and 1 in Mississippi.

But the south has a good record in the prevention of lynchings. Of the attempted lynchings prevented by removal of prisoners or strengthening of guards in 30 instances and by force in 5 instances, 69 persons, 7 of them white were saved from mobs to face legal trial. Thirty of the prevented lynching attempts were in the southern states.

Hickory, N. C. Record
December 28, 1936

Drop Noted In Lynchings During 1936

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28.—(AP)—Fewer persons—nine—have been lynched in 1936 than in any of the last four years, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said today.

All the 1936 victims, a report from the institute's department of records and research said, were negroes, and all were killed in the south.

Officers saved 35 from mobs, the report continued, 30 in southern and five in northern states. Armed force was used against five mobs, Dr. Patterson said, and prisoners were removed or guards augmented to forestall mass action in other cases.

Lynchings-1936
Reports on: Sent Press.

Jan.-Dec.

5482

Tuskegee, Ala., News
December 31, 1936

1936 Lynching Record Lower Than for 1936

December 23, 1936

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1936. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augumented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repeal the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi 1.

Yours very truly,
F. D Patterson.

Memphis, Tenn., Scimitar
December 28, 1936

LYNCHINGS IN DIXIE DECLINE

Nine in 1936, 11 Less Than In 1935, Report Shows; All Were Negroes

Lynchings declined in the South during 1936, a report from F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, at Tuskegee, Ala., showed today.

His figures show there were nine lynchings, 11 less than the number in 1935. His report showed two occurred in Arkansas, one in Mississippi, one in Florida and five in Georgia.

"All of the nine lynched were negroes," the report said. "The offenses charged were rape in three cases, attempted rape in three, one with murder, one with activity in scharecropper strike and one in which no charge was reported.

"There were 35 instances in which officers prevented lynchings, five in Northern states and 30 in the South. A total of 69 persons, seven whites and 62 negroes, were saved from death at the hands of mobs," the report said.

Huntsville, Ala., Times
December 28, 1936

LYNCHINGS DROP TO NINE IN 1936

35 Others Nipped By Officers, According To Tuskegee Records

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28 (AP)—Nine persons were lynched during 1936, and officers prevented 35 others, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said today.

All the lynch victims were negroes, and the lynchings occurred in Southern states, a report from the department of records and research at Tuskegee revealed.

Fewer lynchings took place in 1936 than during any of the last four years, Dr. Patterson reported. This year's nine slain was 11 less than in 1935, six less than in 1934, and 19 less than in 1933.

Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law, two were taken from jails, and four from officers of the law outside of jails, the report said.

Officers prevented five lynchings in Northern states, and 30 in the South, Dr. Patterson said, using armed force to repel lynch mobs in five cases. Prisoners were removed or guards augmented to forestall the other lynchings, he reported. Seven of the prisoners were white men.

Offenses charged against the lynch victims, all of whom were negroes, were rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity on sharecropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

States in which lynchings took place were Arkansas 2; Florida 1; Georgia 5; Mississippi 1.

Charleston, S. C., Evening Post
December 28, 1936

Nine Lynchings Reported in 1936

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28. (AP)—Fewer persons—nine—have been lynched in 1936 than in any of the last four years, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee institute, said today.

All the 1936 victims, a report from the institute's department of records and research said, were negroes, and all were killed in the south.

Officers saved 35 from mobs, the report continued, 30 in southern and five in northern states. Armed force was used against five mobs, Dr. Patterson said, and prisoners were removed or guards augmented to forestall mass action in other cases.

Lynch totals for previous years were announced as 20 in 1935; 15 in 1934, and 28 in 1933.

Offenses charged against lynch victims this year were: Rape 3; attempted rape 3; murder 1; activity in sharecropper strike 1, and charge not reported 1.

Lynching by states:
Georgia 5; Arkansas 2; Florida 1; Mississippi 1.

Kinston, N. C., Free Press
December 28, 1936

NINE LYNCHINGS IN COUNTRY THIS YEAR

Tuskegee's Records Show None in Carolinas—Number Small.

The Free Press received a letter from F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, Monday in which stated that Tuskegee's records showed nine persons had been lynched in the United States this year, 11 fewer than in 1935, six fewer than in 1934, 19 fewer than in 1933.

The institute has compiled lynching statistics for years.

Six of the persons lynched were taken from jails or from officers outside of jails.

There had been 35 instances in which officers prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern states, 30 in Southern. In five cases officers used force to repel mobs. Seven white persons and 62 Negroes were thus saved.

All of the nine lynched were Negroes—two in Arkansas, one in Florida, five in Georgia, one in Mississippi. Offenses charged against them were: Rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder 1; activity in sharecropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont
December 29, 1936

ONLY 9 PERSONS LYNCHED IN '36

All The Victims Were Negroes And Lived In South, Says Tuskegee Report

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 29—(AP)—Fewer persons — nine — have been lynched in 1936 than in any of the last four years, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said today.

All the 1936 victims, a report from the institute's department of records and research said, were negroes, and all were killed in the South.

Officers saved 35 from mobs, the report continued, 30 in southern and five in northern states. Armed force was used aganst five mobs, Dr. Patterson said, and prisoners were removed or guards augmented to forestall actions in other cases.

Lynch totals for previous years were announced as 20 in 1935; 15 in 1934, and 28 in 1933.

Offenses charged against lynch victims this year were: Rape, 3; attempted rape, 1; activity in sharecropper strike, 1, and charge not reported, 1.

Lynching by states:
Georgia 5, Arkansas 2, Florida 1, Mississippi.

Huntsville, Ala., Times
December 28, 1936

Our Record Better

It looks like we are growing a bit more civilized.

The number of lynchings during 1936 dropped down to 9.

This compares with 20 in 1935, 15 in 1934, and 28 in 1933.

Alabama had a clean slate this year.

So did Tennessee, and other Southern states.

Georgia had 5 of the 9 lynchings; Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; and Mississippi, 1.

Almost as impressive as the decrease in the number of lynchings was the fact that there were 35 instances this year, in which officers of the law prevented lynchings.

Five of these were in Northern states, 30 in Southern states.

A total of 69 persons—7 white and 62 negro—were saved from the hands of mobs by the vigorous efforts of officers.

That seems to indicate public sentiment is growing against lynch law, and that it is stiffening the backs of sheriffs and their deputies to resist angry crowds and gangs of hoodlums.

Augusta, Ga., Chronicle
December 29, 1936

DROP SHOWN IN U. S. LYNCHINGS

Prosperity and Better Racial Relations Among Causes Given

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28 (AP)—The return of prosperity, better racial relations and excellent work by law enforcement agencies were given today by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee institute, as prime factors in the sharp reduction in lynchings in 1936.

The institute's department of records and research announced deaths from mob violence dropped to nine, all Negroes and all in southern states, this year as compared to 20 in 1935, 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933.

Dr. Patterson said "the return of better business conditions removed a feeling of unrest, which is more apt to lead to violence than under ordinary conditions."

"Better racial feeling and better understanding, both promoted by continuous educational campaigns, also contributed to the better showing," he said.

Lynchings reported by the institute, by states:
Georgia 5; Arkansas 2; Florida 1; Mississippi 1.

DETROIT MICH FREE PRESS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1936

U. S. Lynchings Decline to Four-Year Low of 9

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28 — (A. P.) — Fewer persons — nine — have been lynched in 1936 in the United States than in any of the last four years, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said today. All the 1936 victims, a report from the institute's department of records and research said, were Negroes, and all were killed in the South.

Fayetteville, Tenn., News
December 31, 1936

9 Persons Lynched During Past Year

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prvented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3, murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont
December 28, 1936

Fewer Lynchings

IN another respect great improvement has been made during 1936. Only nine persons were lynched in the United States, and none in South Carolina.

The states in which lynchings occurred, according to Tuskegee records, and the number in each follow: Arkansas 2, Georgia 5, Florida 1, and Mississippi 1.

The total is 11 less than the number of lynchings last year, six less than the number for 1934 and 19 less than the number for 1933.

In these figures are cause for encouragement and it is to be hoped that they continue to improve.

Birmingham, Ala. News
December 27, 1936

LYNCHINGS SHOW MARKED DECREASE

Nine In Nation, All Negroes, Put To Death By Mobs, During Last Year

Lynchings in the United States during 1936 showed a marked decline from the previous year records compiled by the department of records and research at Tuskegee Institute reveal, according to F. D. Patterson, president of institution.

There were nine persons, all Negroes, lynched in this country during 1936 as compared with 20 who met a similar fate in 1935 and 15 in 1934. In 1933, 28 persons met death by lynching.

Of those lynched in 1936 six persons were in custody of the law at the time, two of them being taken from jails and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances during 1936 in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, with five of such instances occurring in Northern states and the remaining 30 in Southern states, according to records of the Tuskegee Institute. In 30 of such instances the prisoners were either removed, guards augmented or other precautions taken while armed force was used in the other five cases to prevent lynchings. A total of 69 persons, seven white and 62 Negroes, were thus saved from death by lynchings at the hands of mobs.

The offenses charged against the nine Negroes lynched in 1936 ranged from rape, attempted rape and murder to activity in a sharecropper strike.

Montgomery, Ala. Journal
December 28, 1936

DROP IS SHOWN IN LYNCHINGS

Tuskegee Reports Nine Slain by Mobs in 1936 in Southern States

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28.—Nine persons were lynched during 1936 and officers prevented 35 other lynchings, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee institute, said today. All the lynch victims were negroes, and the lynchings occurred in southern states, a report from the department of records and research at Tuskegee revealed. Fewer lynchings took place in 1936 than during any of the last four years, Dr. Patterson reported. This year's nine slain was 11 less than in 1935, six less than in 1934, and 19 less than in 1933.

Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails and four from officers of the law outside of jails, the report said. Officers prevented five lynchings in northern states and 30 in the south, Dr. Patterson said, using armed force to repel lynch mobs in five cases. Prisoners were removed or guards augmented to forestall the other lynchings, he reported. Seven of the prisoners were white men.

Offenses charged against the lynch victims, all of whom were negroes, were criminal attack, 3; attempted attack, 3; murder, 1; activity in sharecropper strike, 1; charge not reported 1. States in which lynchings took place were Arkansas 2, Florida 1; Georgia 5; Mississippi 1.

Moultrie, Ga., Observer
December 29, 1936

GEORGIA HIGHEST IN 1936 LYNCHINGS

Nine persons were lynched, five of them in Georgia, during 1936 according to records compiled today by Tuskegee Normal's department of research.

Of the persons lynched, the report said, all were Negroes. Aside from Georgia, two were lynched in Arkansas, one in Florida and one in Mississippi.

This number, however, was 11 less than the 20 lynchings recorded last year and six less than the total for 1934. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law, two were taken from jail and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which law officers prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and 30 in southern states. In 30 instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. A total of 69 persons, including seven whites and 62 Negroes, were saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Tifton, Ga., Gazette
December 26, 1936

NINE LYNCHINGS REPORTED FOR GEORGIA THIS YEAR

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., December 26.—According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, there were nine persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Statesville, N. C. Daily
December 29, 1936

Lynchings Show A Decline During Year; Nine Listed

Nine persons have been lynched during 1936, according to statistics kept at Tuskegee institute, Tuskegee, Ala., and announced in a letter to the Daily News from F. D. Patterson, president of the institute. All nine were negroes.

The report shows that in 1935 a total of 20 were lynched; in 1934 there were 15 and in 1933 the total was 28.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and 30 in southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers.

The states in which the nine lynchings occurred and the number in each are Arkansas, two; Florida, one; Georgia, five; and Mississippi, one.

Thomasville, Ga., Times-Enterprise
December 28, 1936

FEWER LYNCHINGS IN 1936 THAN IN LAST FOUR YEARS

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28.—(AP)—Fewer persons—nine—have been lynched in 1936 than in any of the last four years, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said today.

All nine of the victims, a report from the institute's department of records and research said, were negroes, and all were killed in the south.

Officers saved 35 from mobs, the report continued, 30 in southern and five in northern states. Armed forces was used against five mobs, Dr. Patterson said.

Lynch totals for previous years were announced as 20 in 1935; 15 in 1934, and 8 in 1933.

Lynching by states: Georgia 5; Arkansas 2; Florida 1; Mississippi 1.

Lynchings-1936
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. -Dec.

5483

Birmingham, Ala. News
January 5, 1937

Fewer Lynchings

The department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute announces that deaths from mob violence in 1936 dropped to nine, all Negroes and all in Southern states, as compared to 20 in 1935, 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933. Thirty-five persons were saved from possible mob action, the report shows, including five in Northern states. Armed forces were used in five instances.

Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the institute, feels that "the return of better business conditions removed a feeling of unrest, which is more apt to lead to violence than under ordinary conditions. Better racial feeling and better understanding, both promoted by continuous educational campaigns, also contributed to the better showing."

In Atlanta, Dr. R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, emphasizes that "the decrease in the number of lynchings is a distinctly encouraging thing, and is obviously due to the educational campaigns being carried on by the churches, newspapers and various organizations. Officers are responding to enlightened public opinion, and doing a great deal more to prevent lynchings."

While it is regrettable that of the nine lynchings five occurred in Georgia, the record for the entire nation is such a distinct improvement as to be gratifying to those who stand for law and order as opposed to rule of the mob. Georgia must catch step with the advance made by other states in stamping out mob violence.

Citizens of any community may safely rely upon the courts to deal justly with accused persons, and by orderly methods arrive at the guilt or innocence of those accused of offenses against law and order, and in the case of guilt fix the punishment to fit the crime, with carrying out of the sentence in keeping with the law of the state.—Atlanta Constitution.

Edgefield, S. C. Advertiser
January 6, 1937

Fewer Lynchings in Year Reported

Tuskegee, Ala.—Fewer persons—nine—were lynched in 1936 than any of the last four years, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said.

All the 1936 victims, a report from the institute's department of records and research said, were negroes, and all were killed in the south.

Officers saved 35 from mobs, the report continued, 30 in Southern and five in Northern states. Armed force was used against five mobs, Dr. Patterson said, and prisoners were removed or guards augmented to forestall mass action in other cases.

Lynch totals for previous years were announced as 20 in 1935; 15 in 1934, and 28 in 1933.

Offenses charged against lynch victims last year were: Rape 3; attempted rape 1; activity in sharecropper strike 1, and charge not reported, 1.

Lynchings by states:

Georgia 5; Arkansas 2; Florida 1; Mississippi 1.

Millen, Ga., News
December 31, 1936

LYNCHING REPORT

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 9 person lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augumented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 662 Negroes, were thus seved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Dadeville, Ala., Record
January 7, 1937

ALABAMA ESCAPES ANY LYNCHINGS LAST YEAR

Tuskegee, Ala.—Nine persons were lynched during 1936, and officers prevents 35 others, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said.

All the lynch victims were negroes, and the lynchings occurred in Southern states, a report from the department of records and research at Tuskegee revealed.

Fewer lynchings took place in 1936 than during any of the last four years, Dr. Patterson reported. This year's nine slain was 11 less than in 1935, six less than in 1934, and 19 less than in 1933.

Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law, two were taken from jails, and four from officers of the law outside of jails, the report said.

Officers prevented five lynchings in Northern states, and 30 in the South, Dr. Patterson said, using armed force to repel lynch mobs in five cases. Prisoners were removed or guards augmented to forestall the other lynchings, he reported. Seven of the prisoners were white men.

Offenses charged against the lynch victims, all of whom were negroes, were rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity on sharecropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

States in which lynchings took place were Arkansas 2; Florida 1; Georgia 5: Mississippi 1.

Fitzgerald, Ga., Herald
December 29, 1936

Nine Persons Are Lynched in 1936

MORE THAN HALF OF 1936 LYNCHINGS TOOK PLACE IN GEORGIA

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were nine persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; six less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails, and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and 30 in southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, seven white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the nufber in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 1.

Andrews, N. C., Journal
December 31, 1936

LYNCHING, 1936

There are a few gleams of light in the dark record of lynching in the year now closing. Sixty-nine persons, seven of them white and sixty-two of them Negro, were saved from the deaths intended for them by mobs according to the annual report of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. Thirty of the thirty-five instances in which lynchings were prevented occurred in the South.

The worst record among all the States was made in Georgia, which had five lynchings of a total of nine two of which were in Arkansas and one each in Floriad and Mssissippi. All the persons lynched were Negroes.

The mob terror has been looked upon with some complacence by many white persons on account of a feeling of an immunity by virtue of color. The fact that several of the prisoners who were saved from mob violence in 1936 were white should help to correct this impression. If there are those whose opposition to lawlessness cannot be roused except by an understanding that the mob spirit endangers their own skins, then the fact should be brought home to them that lawlessness toward the Negro is a short cry from lawlessness toward the white. This places the argument on a level where minimum of conscience is required to comprehend it.

Six of the nine persons who were lynched this year were in the hands of officers of the law; two of them were taken from jails and four were taken in the open. The officers who had the victims in charge either could not or would not protect them and history indicates that more often than not latter is the case. The crime usually occurs where prevailing opinion condonces it and where the officers of law enforcement are menials of prevailing opinion no matter how low its level. The development of a sense of justice in mob-ridden communities will lead to proper prosecution of mobsters, and a very little amount of rigid punishment will go a long way toward discouraging the type of men who make mobs.

Meridian, Miss. Star
December 28, 1936

9 LYNCHINGS ARE RECORDED IN '36

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28—The department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute revealed that there were nine persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933.

Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails, and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; and charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynching occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; and Mississippi, 1.

Statesboro, Ga., Times and News
December 31, 1936

HALF OF LYNCHINGS OCCUR IN GEORGIA

Records Show Total of Nine in United States, With Five In This State.

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec 28.—More than half of the lynchings in the United States during the year just closing occurred in Georgia, according to the figures of the department of records and research of Tuskeegee Institute.

The records shows there were nine lynchings, all negroes, five of which occurred in Georgia. The total number of lynchings was 11 below the figure for 1935, which was 20. It was six less than in 1934 and 19 less than in 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law, two were taken from jails and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

The offenses charged against the persons lynched were assault, 3; attempted assault, 3; murder, 1; activity in share-cropper strike, 1, and charge not reported 1.

Besides Georgia lynchings occurred in the following states: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1, and Mississippi, 1.

There were thirty-five instances in which officers prevented lynchings, the report stated. In thirty of the instances the prisoners were removed, the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the wold-be lynchers, the Tuskegee report said. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs, it was declared in the annual statement.

Greenville, Miss., Democrat Times
December 29, 1936

BETTER LAW AND ORDER

The president of Tuskegee Institute, Dr. F. D. Patterson, keeps a record of the lynchings in the United States. These records have been kept for several years and are interesting.

This year they are encouraging because of the fact that there has been a great reduction in the number and because officers of the law have prevented lynchings in at least 35 cases.

The report says that 9 persons were lynched in 1936. This compared with 20 in 1935, 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933. Of this number 1 was lynched in Mississippi, 1 in Florida, 2 in Arkansas and 5 in Georgia. In the absence of comparative figures we believe this to be a new low record for Mississippi for several years.

But, most important is the fact that officers of the law prevented lynchings in 35 cases, saving the lives of 7 white men and 62 negroes. Some of these persons were innocent. Others were convicted in the courts and properly penalized.

Sentiment against lynchings and toward a more speedy carrying out of laws against crime are working hand-in-hand to reduce the number of lynchings. Quicker administration of justice is the only remedy to cure the lynching fever.

Abbeville, Ala., Herald
December 31, 1936

Nine Lynchings During Year 1936

Below is the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1936. It is found according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails:

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the other 5 instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons 7 white and 62 Negros were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attmpted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi 1.

Carrollton, Ga., Times
December 31, 1936

Survey Shows Less Lynchings During 1936

RECORDS SHOW THERE WERE 9 PERSONS LYNCHED IN COUNTRY

According to the records complied in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 negroes, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

GADSDEN ALA. TIMES
DEC. 28, 1936 D31

Lynching Record Reduced In 1936 To Five Victims

According to the records compiled by the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, nine persons were lynched ~~in the United St~~ates during 1936.

This is 11 less than the 20 that were lynched in 1935, six less than in 1934, and 19 less than in 1933.

Six of those lynched were in the hands of the law when seized by mobs, two were taken from jails and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern states and 30 in Southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, seven white and 62 black, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share-cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The state in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

There were none in Alabama.

MEMPHIS TENN., PRESS
DEC. 28, 1936 D31

LYNCHINGS IN DIXIE DECLINE

Nine In 1936, 11 Less Than In 1935, Report Shows; All Were Negroes

Lynchings declined in the South during 1936, a report from F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, at Tuskegee, Ala., showed today.

His figures show there were nine lynchings, 11 less than the number in 1935. His report showed two occurred in Arkansas, one in Mississippi, one in Florida and five in Georgia.

"All of the nine lynched were negroes," the report said. "The offenses charged were rape in three cases, attempted rape in three, one with murder, one with activity in scharecropper strike and one in which no charge was reported.

"There were 35 instances in which officers prevented lynchings, five in Northern states and 30 in the South. A total of 69 persons, seven whites and 62 negroes, were saved from death at the hands of mobs," the report said.

Sandersville, Ga., Progress
December 31, 1936

Lynchings Show Decrease In 1936

According to records compiled by the research department of Tuskeegee Institute there were only nine people lynched in 1936. This is less than 1935 when 20 people were put to death by mobs in the United States. In 1934 there were 15 lynchings reported, and 28 in 1933.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, five of these being in northern states and 30 in southern states. Of the nine persons lynched this year all were Negroes. The offenses charge were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; and charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state were as follows: Arkansas, 2; Forida, 1; Georgia 5; Mississippi, 1.

Lynchings-1936
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan.-Dec.

5484

BATAVIA N Y NEWS
TUESDAY. DECEMBER 29, 1936

LYNCHINGS IN 1936.

About this time of year, the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, located at Tuskegee. Alagama, sends in its ~~annual report~~ of lynchings in the United States This year's report shows a great improvement over the 1935 summary. F. D. Patterson, who occupies the position of president of the institute made famous by the late Booker T. Washington, in making his report says:

"I find, according to the records compiled in the department of records and research, that nine persons were lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number (20) for 1935; six less than the number (15) for 1934 and 19 less than the number (28) for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

"There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and thirty in southern states. In thirty of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, seven white and 62 negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the nine persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, three; attempted rape, three; murder, one; activity in share cropper strike, one; charge not reported, one.

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, two; Florida, one; Georgia, five; Mississippi. one."

CLARKSBURG W VA EXPONENT
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1936

LETTERS To the Editor

Editor, The Exponent:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1936. I find, according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

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Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 5.

F. D. PATTERSON, President.

NEW YORK, N. Y. TIMES
JAN 1 1937

CRIME AND DISASTER

By F. D. PATTERSON
President of Tuskegee Institute

I SEND you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1936. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were nine persons lynched in 1936. This is eleven less than the number twenty for 1935; six less than the number fifteen for 1934, and nineteen less than the number twenty-eight for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were thirty-five instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and thirty in Southern States. In thirty of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of sixty-nine persons, seven white and sixty-two Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share-cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Jan. 23—Haywood Patterson, first of Negro defendants retried under new indictment in Scottsboro case, is convicted and sentenced to seventy-five years' imprisonment at Decatur, Ala.

Jan. 28—In New York United States District Court Morro Castle officers, charged with criminal negligence with the loss of 134 lives when the liner burned, are convicted and sentenced; the maximum fine of $10,000 is levied on the owners.

Jan. 31—Twenty Negroes are burned to death in prison truck at Scottsboro, Ala. The families receive State grants totaling $23,000 Feb. 21.

Feb. 7—Welfare Island Penitentiary, after 110 years as a prison, is officially closed.

May 25—Night Riders or Black Legion: Fifteen members arrested charged with murder of WPA worker.

From April to September there are successively devastating floods and droughts, in reclamation thousands of unemployed are put to work by the WPA.

Franklin, Mass. Sentinel
JAN 28 1937

Jefferson, Ga. Herald
JAN 28 1937

WATERBURY, CONN. REPUBLICAN
JAN 28 1937

Oklahoman
SHATTUCK OKLA. ~~NEWS~~ (wk)
JAN. 22, 1937 J28

Crawford
~~GEORGETOWN~~, TEX., SUN
JAN. 15, 1937 J22

COMMERCE, TEX., JOURNAL
JAN. 18, 1937 J26

SUSANVILLE, CAL., ADVOCATE
JANUARY 28, 1937

GREENVILLE ILL ADVOCATE
MONDAY JANUARY 25 1937

SPEARVILLE, KAS., NEWS
JAN. 21, 1937 F1

Alexandria, La. Town Talk Weekly
January 2. 1937

TIPTON, OK., TRIBUNE
JAN. 15, 1937 J22

GUNTERSVILLE, ALA., ADVERTISER F2
JAN. 27, 1937

Ronceverte, W. Va., News
January 9, 1937

St. Petersburg, Fla. Independent
January 20, 1937

Franklinton, La., Era-Leader
January 7, 1937

Montgomery, Ala. Journal
February 2, 1937

HOLLYWOOD, CAL., CITIZEN-NEWS
JANUARY 18, 1937

Colonial Beach, Va., Interest
January 14, 1937

Memphis, Tenn., Review
January 15 ,1937

Logan, W. Va. Democrat
January 1, 1937

Sylacauga, Ala., Advance
January 28, 1937

Jefferson, Ga., Herald
January 28, 1937

SYLACAUGA. ALA., ADVANCE
JAN. 28. 1937 F3

State Escapes 1936 Lynching, But Not Nation

However, U. S. Record Was Second Best In Dark History Of Mobs

Alabama ended 1936 without a lynching. But lynch violence took the lives of nine persons, all negroes, last year in the United States the lowest record since 1932, a Tuskegee Institute report said today.

In the last year Arkansas had two lynchings, Florida one. In 1936 a total of 20 met this fate in the nation and in 1934 there were 15 lynchings. Twenty-eight died similarly in 1933, but only eight in 1932.

In Alabama's record of lynchings from 1882 through 1936, a total of 47 white men and 296 negroes have met death at the hands of a mob.

In both 1891 and 1892, darkest years for violence in Alabama's history, the state had 24 lynchings.

Record Is Dark

But the trend toward observance of law and order has produced eight spotless years—without a single lynching—out of the last 13 in Alabama. From 1921 to the present, the state has exceeded three lynchings in any one year.

During the 54 years since 1882, only Georgia, Mississippi Louisiana and Texas have had worst records than Alabama for lynching. The darkest of all is Mississippi's with a total of 564 lynchings, 221 more than Aalabama, 50 more than Georgia and 76 more than Texas.

In 1892 the all-time high was registered in the nation, with a total of 162 negro and white victims.

Causes Of Lynchings

Tuskegee Institute's report insists that criminal assault is not the major cause of lynching. The national figures compiled by the Institute show that only one-fourth of the lynchings was attributed to that crime. More than 10 per cent in the 1932-1936 period was for offenses as bein a witness, writing insulting notes, improper conduct, insisting on eating in a restaurant when refused service, threatening with knife, trying to act like a white man and not knowing his place, being a strike breaker, using insulting language, striking white men in a quarrel, discussing a lynching, making boastful remarks, misleading mob, vagrancy, slapping boys, jumping labor contracts, insisting on voting, gambling, incendiarism, throwing stones and enticing servants away," according to a report from Tuskegee.

Only in 1932 and 1936 could the national total of lynchings be written in one figure, according to the report for the 1882-1936 period.

Commenting on the decline of lynching in 1936, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said: "The return of better business conditions has removed the feeling of unrest which invariably leads to racial bitterness."

Birmingham, Ala. Post
January 25, 1937

STATE ESCAPES 1936 LYNCHING, BUT NOT NATION

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Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
December 29, 1936

Dixie—Citadel of Lynchers

THE year now drawing to a close had the lowest number of lynchings in half a century, with one exception, according to figures just released by Tuskegee Institute. Only nine persons were put to death in this fiendish fashion during 1936, one more than for 1932, when the best record of all was made.

The United States is the only supposedly civilized country in the world where such things occur, and yet the toll of lynchings continues year by year, with the number lynched varying between 8 and 33 since 1923. Prior to that year, the totals were much higher, and there has been a clearly discernible improvement, but despite the gratifying drop this year to nine, as compared with 20 for last year, there seems to be little hope of abolishing lynchings in the near future.

Georgia takes its place as the lynch capital of the country during 1936, with five mob murders there during the year. Arkansas is next with two, and Florida and Mississippi have one each. All the victims were Negroes.

Georgia hasn't the worst record over the 45-year period for which statistics are available, however. The University of North Carolina *News Letter* recently published statistics covering this matter, and Mississippi gets first place, with 462 lynchings since 1889, or 22.98 per 100,000 population. Georgia had 458, but with its larger population, this is only 15.75 per 100,000 population. Florida and Louisiana surpass Georgia in lynchings per capita.

Virginia has next to the best record in the South, with 80 lynchings during the 45 years, 71 Negroes and nine whites, or 3.30 per 100,000 population. North Carolina's showing is still better, with 66 mob murders, or 2.08 per 100,000.

The honor roll of States, in which not one single lynching has taken place in 45 years, follows: Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Vermont.

Obviously, New England is a section where lynchings are unknown. The South, on the other hand, is the citadel of lynching. It is true that New England has no race problem of consequence, whereas the South has such a problem, but that is no answer. Lynchings are always wrong, for they are in defiance of law and order, they permit human beings to give way to instincts of savagery, and they frequently make innocent persons their victims.

It may be taken for granted that another Federal anti-lynching bill will be introduced at the approaching session of Congress. What will be its fate? The COSTIGAN-WAGNER bill probably would have passed in 1935, except for a filibuster by Southern senators.

Instead of arranging filibusters, members of the national legislature from the South would do well to remedy the evil which leads to the periodic introduction of corrective measures at Washington. It is good news that only nine persons were put to death by lynchers in Dixie during 1936, but how long will it be before there are none at all?

Lynchings-1936
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan.-Dec.

5485

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
January 3, 1937

The Lynching Record

The Tuskegee Institute Department of Records and Research reports nine lynchings for 1936 and thereby writes the year down as the best in this respect the country has known since 1932, when eight lynchings were recorded.

That is ample cause for satisfaction, in comparison with the dark story of other years. But it would be far more enlightening if there were any way of telling why the lynching curve dropped so sharply these past twelve months. Why were there only nine lynchings in 1936, when there were 20 a year earlier, and 15 a year earlier than that, and 28 a year further back? And why did 1933 have 28 lynchings but 1932 only eight?

More important yet: If 1936 had nine lynchings, how many will 1937 have? Will the curve continue downward? Or will it take one of those strange upward surges, as when it jumped from eight in 1932 to 28 in 1933?

Here is the present puzzle of lynching as a Southern phenomenon. It is easy enough to read the figures of racial hatred and mob madness for every year back to the 1880's, and almost as easy to plot the graph which illustrates the record. When one has done that, it is easy to see the encouraging result over the long range of years. For the central fact is inescapable that lynching has vastly declined and—though inexcusable in any instance—is far less of a social problem than it used to be.

It is possible to go even further. The main causes of this improvement are well known. They spring from a new public opinion, manifested in many ways, through all the weapons of social pressure. The effect upon officers of the law is inevitable. Sheriffs are more careful in the protection of their charges because they know that public opinion supports them. Jailers are more careful. Mobs are less confident. Punishment, though still too small a risk, is more probable. The rising tide of educated Southerners, freed from many of the inherited concepts of their forebears, supplies a constantly increasing addition to the newer opinion.

It has been only 17 years since 83 persons were lynched in one twelvemonth period. It has been only a little more than a decade since the average number of lynchings was nearly 50 a year. Yet for the past ten years the average is down to little more than 15. Nobody can read such figures and doubt that lynching is amenable to control.

But the last ten years, considered alone, raise certain misgivings. The maximum for this decade is 28; the minimum is 8; the average is 15.1. The first half of this decade, however, or the years from 1927 to 1931, inclusive, had only 71 lynchings, as compared with 80 during the second half, or the years from 1932 to 1936, inclusive. In the last five years there have been two "good" years, two bad years, one average year. One can go back to a three-year period from 1927 through 1929 and find an average of less than 13 lynchings a year But no such period appears at any time since then.

The pattern for the deeade is thus notably without order. Some prosperous years have had good records, others bad records. Some depression years have had good records, others bad records. Continuing improvement is difficult to discover. The South would seem, therefore, to have brought the lynching problem down to a level where social forces are becoming less effective, where accidental or suddenly erupting causes are less subject to the available pressures. Eventually the South will grow away from even this kind of occasional and spasmodic resort to mob violence. But it does not appear to know how, save through the slow processes of education.

Meantime, however, the South can not afford to let up on the constant determination to root out the philosophy that a mob can do what the law can not do, or that sadistic private avengers possess either the moral right or the judicial ability to pass final judgments on those suspected of breaking the law

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Nashville, Ga., Herald
January 14, 1937

Nine Persons Are Lynched in 1936

More Than Half of 1936 Lynchings Took Place In Georgia

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were nine persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; six less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails, and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and 30 in southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, seven white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 1.

Manchester Guardian
Manchester, England

P/4/ws

LYNCHINGS IN THE UNITED STATES

The Figures for Last Year

To the Editor of the Manchester Guardian.

Sir,—According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute nine persons were lynched in 1936. This is eleven less than in 1935, six less than in 1934, and nineteen less than in 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law, two were taken from gaols, and four from officers of the law outside of gaols.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and thirty in Southern States. In thirty of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons—seven white and 62 Negro—were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the nine persons lynched all were Negroes. The offences charged were rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1. The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows:—Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.—Yours, &c.,

F. D. Patterson, President.
Tuskegee Institute.
Alabama, U.S.A., December 23.

Water Valley, Miss. Herald
January 7, 1937

Only Nine Lynchings

According to the Tuskegee Institute annual bulletin on the subject, only 9 persons were lynched in the United States last year, the smallest number in any year except one since records have been kept, that being 1932, when there were only 8 lynchings.

All 9 persons lynched in 1936 were Negroes, and the offenses charged were: Rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1. Lynchings occurred in the following states: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Figures compiled at Tuskegee indicate that officers of the law saved 69 persons from death at the hands of mobs during the year, and of this number 7 were white.

The crime of lynching has greatly decreased in recent years, due largely to increased vigilance on the part of officers of the law, and especially through prompt removal of certain classes of suspected criminals to more secure prisons at a considerable distance from the localities where these crimes were committed.

Lynching in the United States reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white. During the last five years lynchings have occurred as follows: In 1932, 8; in 1933, 28; in 1934, 15; in 1935, 20; in 1936, 9.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and is a reflection upon any community in which it occurs. No good citizen will participate in or condone mob murder.

KANSAS CITY, MO., ~~CITIAN~~ American
JAN. 1, 1937 J13

Nine Lynchings For Year 1936

Kansas City American,

Kansas City, Mo.

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings fo the year 1936. I find according t the records compiled in the Department of Records and Researc of the Tuskegee Institute tha there were 9 persons lynched i 1936. This is 11 less than th number 20 for 1935; 6 less tha the number 15 for 1934; and 1 less than the number 28 for 1933 6 of the persons lynched were i the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officer of the law outside of jails.

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Of the 9 persons lynched, al ~~were Negroes. The offenses~~ charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity i share cropper strike, 1; charg not reported, 1.

The States in which lynching occurred and the number in eac State are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Yours very truly,

F. D. Patterson,

President.

ST. LOUIS, MO., ARGUS
JAN. 1, 1937 J13

NINE INNOCENT PERSONS LYNCHED

A statement issued from the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama on lynchings in the United States during 1936 presents some interesting facts.

Of the nine lynched, only three were charged with rape. We make special reference to this number "charged" with rape, because those who seek to justify lynching, always say that lynching is necessary to protect the virtue of the white white women of the South from Negro rapists. So far as we recall, everyone of the defenders of lynching, have the same old story, "Protecting white women." Everybody knows that every time a Negro is "charged" with rape, by police officers, irresponsible women, their lovers and sweethearts, does not mean that the accused is guilty. Experience has shown that there are many and varied concoctions in the rape charges, given to the newspapers. The public will never know the extent of such mixtures.

We have mentioned the fact that the nine victims were innocent. We say this because that so far as the law is concerned, they were innocent; the presumption of the law being, ever man is innocent, until he shall have been properly charged and indicted before the grand jury and given an opportunity to defend himself before a competent court. In their cases the mob was the persecutor, judge and jury. Everybody knows that no mob is a competent judge. Therefore we feel fully justified in saying that the victims of the mobs were innocent.

Vicksburg, Miss. Post
January 17, 1937

Only Nine Lynchings

According to the Tuskegee Institute annual bulletin on the subject, only 9 persons were lynched in the United States last year, the smallest number in any year except one since records have been kept, that being 1932, when there were only 8 lynchings.

All 9 persons lynched in 1936 were negroes, and the offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1. Lynchings occurred in the following states: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Figures compiled at Tuskegee indicate that officers of the law saved 69 persons from death at the hands of mobs during the year, and of this number 7 were white.

The crime of lynching has greatly decreased in recent years, due largely to increased vigilance on the part of officers of the law, and especially through prompt removal of certain classes of suspected criminals to more secure prisons at a considerable distance from the localities where these crimes were committed.

Lynching in the United States reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white. During the last five years lynchings have occurred as follows; in 1932, 8; in 1933, 28; in 1934, 15; in 1935, 20; in 1936, 9.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and is a reflection upon any community in which it occurs. No good citizen will participate in or condone mob murder.

HOPKINSVILLE, KY., NEW ERA
JAN. 2, 1937 J12

Lynchings Decrease

It is gratifying to note that fewer persons were lynched in the United States last year than during any of the last four years. The report comes from Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute. During 1936 all mob victims were Negroes: Georgia has five to her discredit, Arkansas two, Florida and Mississippi each one. This total of nine is comparable favorable with the twenty who died by mob violence in 1935, with the fifteen in 1934, and the 28 in 1933.

This is the darker side of the picture. But during the year officers of the law saved 35 from mobs, yet found it necessary to use armed force against only five. It seems a fair assumption that lynching is becoming no longer "fashionable." Officers of the law are more alert in overtaking offenders; speedy cruisers, highway patrols and the radio all help. Courts more and more are growing intolerant of needless delays in bringing criminals to trial and impatient with a defense that is built on technicalities. These undoubtedly are contributing factors.

Shelby, N. C. Star
January 12, 1937

LYNCHING AND HARD TIMES

(Baltimore Evening Sun)

Tuskegee Institute announces that only nine lynchings have taken place in 1936, the smallest number for any year but one since the records began to be kept carefully. The one exception was 1932, when there were only eight lynchings.

This is probably an indication of, among other things, returning prosperity. The lynching curve doesn't follow the economic curve exactly, but closely enough to indicate strongly that lynching is, in some measure, a reflection of economic despair.

In 1890, for instance, when things were going pretty well, the number of lynchings, which had been running in the hundreds, was brought down to 96; but in 1894, when hard times had gripped the country, it rose again to 192. By 1902, when the depression was over, the number sank again to 92, and by 1907 it had been brought down to 60; but 1908, a bitterly hard year, especially in the south, saw 97 lynchings. By 1914 the number had come down to 47; but then the war panic prostrated the south for months, and in 1915 there were 75 lynchings. Thereafter the number declined pretty steadily until 1929, when there were 10. Apparently, here was an exception to the rule, for, despite the crash, lynchings continued to decline until 1932, when there were only 8; the nert year, though, saw a sudden resurgence of the crime, with 28. In 1934, with relief getting in its work, there were 15; in 1935, 16, and this year, with prosperity swiftly increasing, 9.

Here is certainly a strong indication that when people on the lowest economic levels are in the grip of black despair they tend to take it out on negroes and other more or less helpless victims.

Americus, Ga., Recorder
January 15, 1937

ONLY NINE LYNCHINGS.

According to the Tuskogee Institute annual bulletin on the subject, only 9 persons were lynched in the United States last year the smallest number in any year except one since records have been kept, that being 1932, when there were only 8 lynchings.

All 9 persons lynched in 1936 were Negroes, and the offenses charged were: Rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1: charge not reported, 1. Lynchings occurred in the following states: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia 5; Mississippi, 1.

Figures compiled at Tuskegee indicate that officers of the law saved 69 persons from death at the hands of mobs during the year, and of this number 7 were white.

The crime of lynching has greatly decreased in recent years, due largely to increased vigilance on the part of officers of the law, and especially through prompt removal of certain classes of suspected criminals to more secure prisons at a considerable distance from the localities where these crimes were committed.

Lynching in the United States reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white. During the last five years lynchings have occurred as follows: In 1932, 8; in 1933, 28; in 1934, 15; in 1935, 20; in 1936, 9.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and is a reflection upon any community in which it occurs.

ST. LOUIS, MO., ARGUS
JAN. 1, 1937 J13

Georgia Leads In Lynch Role

"Empire" State of The South Annexes Five of Nine Mob Murders in U.S., During 1936. Arkansas is Next With Two; Florida and Mississippi With One Each

A report has just been received from the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, which shows that there were nine lynchings in the United States during the year 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negroes, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share-cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynching occured and the number in each States are as follows: Arkansas 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Lynchings - 1936
Reports on: Sent Press.

Jan. - Dec.

5486

St. Petersburg, Fla., Times
December 29, 1936

One in Florida

Florida has yet to erase its fair name from the list of states which have lynchings.

The annual report of the Tuskegee Institute on this lawless practice shows that Florida lynched one of the nine persons to die by this outrageous method in 1936.

This year, however, showed more tendency to civilization than the previous year. Only nine persons, all negroes, were lynched in the entire country in 1936. This was 11 less than the 20 strung up in 1935.

Commenting the institute said:

"Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

"There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and 30 in southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, seven white and 62 negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the nine persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1."

Along with the banishment of lynching—something that could really be ended by a strict enforcement of the murder law—Florida should also see that 1937 is without instances of the whip or the tar brush, and that offenders whose names are still on court dockets for such offenses be brought to immediate trial.

Danville, Va., Register
December 30, 1936

NINE BLACK MARKS

Announcement by the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute that only nine persons, all Negroes, were lynched in 1936 indicates that the South has made some progress during the past year. Of course all the lynchings took place in the Southern states with Georgia holding the dubious distinction of having had five of her citizens killed by mobs, more than all the rest. Arkansas had two lynchings, and Florida and Mississippi one each.

The total for the year is 11 less than the 20 reported in 1935, 6 less than the 15 reported in 1934, and 19 less than the 28 reported in 1933.

As might have been expected, the number of persons lynched dropped as the number of efforts to prevent lynchings increased. In 35 instances officers of the law acted successfully to prevent mobs seizing prisoners. On 30 occasions they were spirited away to distant cities for safekeeping or their guards were augmented, and on five occasions armed force was used to repel the mobs. As a result, 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were saved from death.

While there is nothing in this record to which a Southerner can point with pride, it does give encouragement to those leaders of both races who are endeavoring to promote the welfare of the South by improving the relations of the white man and the Negro. The number of lynchings, obviously, does not give any adequate indication of improvement or retrogression in those relations, but so long as they remain a symbol of racial hostility, every effort must be made to eliminate them even as greater efforts are made to promote harmonious relations between the races.

Rocky Mount, N. C., Telegram
December 28, 1936

LYNCHINGS HANDED SETBACK

Lynching experienced a noticeable setback in the United States during 1936, according to a cheering report compiled by the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute. The report gives the following figures: There were nine persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the insances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. Tho offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

While this report admittedly is cheering and indicates that our country at last may be returning to the less barbaric method of handling criminals, yet we still must worry about the nine who were lynched.

As often stated, greater respect must be maintained for the courts, and that will be forthcoming only through speedy and sure justice for law breakers. Reduction of illiteracy also may be depended upon to play a major rolo in wiping out entirely this menace to society—lynching.

Concord, N. C. Tribune
December 30, 1936

IMPROVING.

There is reason to feel encouraged over the semi-annual report of the president of Tuskegee Institute showing only 9 lynchings in the United States during 1936. The total was 11 less than the 20 for 1936, 6 less than the 15 for 1934, and 19 less than the 28 for 1933.

Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of officers of the law; 2 were taken from jails and 4 from officers outside of jails.

Particularly encouraging is that part of the report which shows that there were 35 instances in which officers prevented lynchings. Thirty of these were in Southern States, where, we regret to say, officers haven't always been so diligent in opposing mob members.

In 30 of the 35 instances where lynchings were prevented the prisoners were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the other 5 instances armed force was used to repeal the would-be lynchers. Because officers were diligent in these 35 cases a total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negroes, were saved from death at the hands of mobs.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes, charged with: Rape 3; attempted rape 3; murder 1; activity in share cropper strike 1; charge not reported 1. The States in which lynchings occurred were: Arkansas 2, Florida 1, Georgia 5, and Mississippi 1.

Athens, Tenn., Post Athenian
December 29, 1936

ynchings Fewer In 1936, Figures Show

Records of lynchings for 1936, as compiled by the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, of Tuskegee Ala., show a total of nine lynchings the victims being Negroes in every instance. There were 20 lynchings in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

The lynchings were in the following states: Arkansas 2; Florida 1; Georgia 5; Mississippi 1. Causes were: Rape 3, attempted rape 3, murder 1, activity in share cropper strike 1; charge unreported 1.

In 65 instances officers prevented lynchings, five in the North and 30 in the South. Involved were 62 Negroes and 7 whites. In five cases armed force was used to quell the mob.

Macon, G
Decemb

Lynchings Decrease

The Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute shows that 9 persons were lynched in 1936, which is 11 less than for 1935, 6 less than for 1934 and 19 less than for 1933.

Six of the victims of these outbreaks of lawlessness, according to the survey, were in the hands of the law when they were taken out and put to death; two were taken from jails and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

In 35 instances officers of the law, devoted and determined, were able to prevent lynchings. Five of these cases were in northern states and 30 in southern states. In 30 cases the prisoner was removed to other quarters, the guard augumented or other proper steps taken. In 5 cases armed force was used to protect the prisoner. Thus a total of 69 presons, of whom 62 were Negroes, were saved from mob violence.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes and their alleged offenses were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

It will be seen that the record is much better than for previous years, but it is a matter of regret to find that 5 of the 9 lynchings took place right here in Georgia. In Arkansas there were 2; in Florida, 1; and in Mississippi, 1.

We may depend upon it that unless there is an end to mob violence in this country a federal anti-lynching bill sooner or later will be passed. There is almost constantly one such measure before Congress and the time may come when it will be enacted into law with severe penalties for its violation.

Montgomery, Ala. Journal
December 31, 1936

No Alabama Lynchings

Alabama, with the large portion of her population colored, was without a single blot on her escutcheon in 1936 as far as lynchings were concerned. Of the nine negroes who were victims of infuriated mass-murderers this year, five were from Georgia, two from Arkansas, one from Florida and the other from Mississippi. However, the nine deaths was a reduction of eleven from the 20 lynchings of 1935, caused in part by the commendable action on the part of law enforcement officers, who prevented 69 persons in these states from death by unlawful means. Calhoun county's officials cannot be too highly praised in this regard, for they certainly were directly responsible for preventing at least two such despicable violences during the year.—Anniston Star.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
December 29, 1936

TUSKEGEE REPORTS ONLY 9 LYNCHINGS IN YEAR NEAR END

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28 (AP).—Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, today termed the return of prosperity, better racial relations, and excellent work by law enforcement agencies as prime factors in a sharp reduction in lynchings during 1936.

The institute's department of records and research announced deaths from mob violence in the United States during the year now drawing to a close dropped to nine, all negroes and all in Southern states. This compared with 20 deaths in 1935, 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933.

"We hope, and have reason to believe, this trend away from mob action will continue," Patterson said.

Lynchings reported by the Institute by states:

Georgia 5, Arkansas 2, Florida 1, Mississippi 1.

Thirty-five persons were saved from possible mob action, the report said, including five in Northern states.

In Atlanta, Dr. R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, termed the decrease in the number of lynchings "a distinctly encouraging thing."

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
December 29, 1936

LYNCHING RECORD IMPROVES IN 1936

Georgia, With Five Mob Murders, Leads Other States During Past Year

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28 (AP)—The return of prosperity, better racial relations and excellent work by law enforcement agencies were given today by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, as prime factors in the sharp reduction in lynchings in 1936.

The institute's department of records and research announced deaths from mob violence dropped to nine, all Negroes and all in southern states, this year as compared to 20 in 1935, 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933.

Dr. Patterson said, "The return of better business conditions removed a feeling of unrest, which is more apt to lead to violence than under ordinary conditions."

"Better racial feeling and better understanding, both promoted by continuous educational campaigns, also contributed to the better showing," he said.

Georgia Leads List

Lynchings reported by the institute, by states:

Georgia, 5; Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Mississippi 1.

Twenty-five persons were saved from possible mob action, the report said, including five in northern states. Armed force was used in five instances.

In Atlanta, Dr. R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, commented, "The decrease in the number of lynchings is a distintcly encouraging thing.

"It is obviously due to the educational campaigns being carried on by the churches, newspapers and various organizations. Officers are responding to enlightened public opinion, and doing a great deal more to prevent lynching."

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
December 29, 1936

LESS LYNCHING SHOWN IN YEAR

Decrease Is Attributed Partly To Prosperity By Institute Head

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28—(AP)—The return of prosperity, better racial relations and excellent work by law enforcement agencies were given Monday by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, as prime factors in the sharp reduction in lynchings in 1936.

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Dr. Patterson said "the return of better business conditions removed a feeling of unrest, which is more apt to lead to violence than under ordinary conditions."

"Better racial feeling and better understanding, both promoted by continuous educational campaigns, also contributed to the better showing," he said.

"The fine attitude of government officials and law enforcement agencies, such as the prompt and fearless action of Gov. Bibb Graves, of Alabama, in several instances, ended several threatening situations," Dr. Patterson said.

"We hope, and have reason to believe," he said, "this trend away from mob action will continue."

Lynchings reported by the institute, by states:

Georgia 5, Arkansas 2, Florida 1, Mississippi 1.

Thirty-five persons were saved from possible mob action, the report said, including five in Northern states. Armed force was used in five instances.

Henderson, N. C. Dispatch
December 28, 1936

9 LYNCHINGS OCCUR DURING PAST YEAR

Number Least in Any Recent Year; All of Victims Were Negroes

Nine lynchings occurred in 1936, all of the victims being Negroes, and five of the total in Georgia, according to a compilation furnished by Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, and sent out by F. D. Patterson, president of the college. Dr. Patterson's statement follows:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1936. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were nine persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; six less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails, and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the wouldbe lynchers. A total of 69 persons. Seven white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, three; attempted rape, three; murder, one; activity in share cropper strike, one; charge not reported, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, two; Florida, one; Georgia, five; Mississippi, one.

Sumter, S. C., Item
December 26, 1936

LYNCHING RECORD

Nine Persons Were Executed by Mobs During 1936

Tuskegee, Dec. 23.—According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and 30 in southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

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Lynchings-1936

Reports on: Sent Press

Jan. - Dec.

5487

FROM THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR 1936

San Antonio Express

Set against the 20 lynchings recorded for 1935, the nine which Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute counted during 1936 represent a turn for the better. For all that, the situation is evil and will remain so while the American people must face the reproach of any unpunished mob murder. Did not so many communities tolerate it—as Woodrow Wilson said, while President—the condition could not last.

12-29-36

As matters stand, the lynching record apparently runs in cycles. When times are good, mob crimes fall off; when economic depression is at low point, mob spirit is rampant. That connection (or coincidence) has led some students to conclude that the ultimate motive for lynch-murder is economic. Certainly, during 1936 the Nation did advance along the road to recovery—and only one of the lynchings sprang from related labor difficulties: an Arkansas mob hanged a Negro for participating in a share-croppers' strike!

San Antonio Light

Six of the nine victims were charged with "the usual crime." In Judge Lynch's jurisdiction, to be charged is to be convicted and immediately hanged. Six victims were taken from the law's hands—four from officers and two from jails. Had those officials proved as resourceful in resisting and outwitting mobs as did peace officers in 35 other threatened lynchings, involving 69 persons, the number of such crimes would have been held down to three.

In his report, F. D. Patterson, Tuskegee Institute's president, properly emphasizes official resistance to would-be lynchers. Until enlightened humanitarian sentiment and civic pride shall lead the people to rise up and wipe out such practices forever, decent citizens everywhere will look to fearless, quick-thinking, energetic peace officers as the community's first line of defense against the mob.

Such officers last summer probably prevented the lynching of nine persons (including four women) following a brawl in Harris County. The Nation would have been shocked and Texas again would have led the infamous roll in 1936.

As it is, Texas can show a clean slate for the period of its Centennial observance. That official service—in the old-time Ranger tradition—should be remembered and recognized. Those officers are proper candidates for the gold medals annually bestowed by the Commission on Interracial Co-operation in Atlanta (Georgia).

Simply by gathering the bare figures of the lynching record year after year, and letting those figures—published to the world—speak for themselves, Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute also is rendering service.

NINE LYNCHED IN 1936; FEWEST IN FOUR YEARS

Tribune

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28.—(AP)—Nine persons have been lynched in 1936 in the United States, fewer than in any of the last four years, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee institute, said today.

12-29-36

All the 1936 victims, a report from the institute's department of record and research said, were colored, and all were killed in the south.

Officers saved 35 persons from mobs, the report continued, 30 in southern and five in northern states. Armed force was used against five mobs and prisoners were removed or guards augmented to forestall mass action in other cases.

Lynch totals for recent years were announced as 20 in 1935; 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933.

Offenses charged against lynch victims this year were: rape 3; attempted rape 3; murder 1; activity in sharecropper strike 1, charge not reported 1. Lynching by states: Georgia 5; Arkansas 2; Florida 1; Mississippi 1.

LYNCHING, 1936.

Chattanooga Times

12-28-36

There are a few gleams of light in the dark record of lynching in the year now closing. Sixty-nine persons, seven of them white and sixty-two of them Negro, were saved from the deaths intended for them by mobs, according to the annual report of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. Thirty of the thirty-five instances in which lynchings were prevented occurred in the South.

The worst record among all the States was made in Georgia, which had five lynchings of a total of nine, two of which were in Arkansas and one each in Florida and Mississippi.

Marked Reduction In Crime Is Shown by Report

Camden Argus

F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, in Alabama, finds that according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute there were nine persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than 15 for 1934; and 19 less than 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

12-31-36

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern and 30 in southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Camden, N.J.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1. The states in which lynchings occurred were: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

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9 Lynchings Recorded in Past Year

Portland

Decrease in Mob Murders Revealed by Tuskegee Research Bureau

1-1-37

Nine persons were lynched in 1936, according to records compiled in the department of records and research at Tuskegee Institute. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935, 6 less than the number 15 for 1934, and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933.

Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern states and 30 in Southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons—7 white and 62 Negro—were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in sharecropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississip-

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FEWER LYNCHINGS IN 1936

Republican

To the Editor of The Republican:—

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1936. I find, according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee institute, that there were nine persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number, 20, for 1935; six less than the number, 15, for 1934; and 19 less than the number, 28, for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails, and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

12-29-36

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and 30 in southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, seven white and 62 Negroes, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Springfield, Mass.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, three; attempted rape, three; murder, one; activity in share cropper strike, one; charge not reported, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, two; Florida, one; Georgia, five; Mississippi, one.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President.

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., December 23, 1936.

KING LYNCH'S BUSY YEAR

Nine Murders Mark His Reign this Year

1-2-37

Tuskegee Institute, Ala.—According to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number of 20 in 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934 and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Of those lynched 6 were in the hands of the law, 2 were taken from jails and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern states and 30 in Southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state were as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

1936 Lynching Record Lower Than for 1936

December 23, 1936

12-31-36

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1936. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for

1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of [illegible]; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augumented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repeal the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi 1.

Yours very truly,

F. D Patterson.

Tuskegee Reports 9 Lynched In 1936

Planet

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number, 20 for 1935; 6 less than the 15 murdered by savages in 1934; and 19 less than the 28 who met the same tragic fate in 1933. 1-2-37

Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of law officers; two were taken from jails, and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 colored, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs in these "civilized" United States.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were colored. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in sharecropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1

It is patent that such cases as that which occurred in Virginia at Gordonsville, in which two persons were lynched by mobs with the assistance of law officers, are not included in the Tuskegee Institute records.

FEWER LYNCHINGS

Constitution 12-31-36 Atlanta Ga

The department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute announces that deaths from mob violence in 1936 dropped to nine, all negroes and all in southern states, as compared to 20 in 1935, 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933. Thirty-five persons were saved from possible mob action, the report shows, including five in northern states. Armed forces were used in five instances.

Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the institute, feels that "the return of better business conditions removed a feeling of unrest, which is more apt to lead to violence than under ordinary conditions. Better racial feeling and better understanding, both promoted by continuous educational campaigns, also contributed to the better showing."

In Atlanta, Dr. R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, emphasizes that "the decrease in the number of lynchings is a distinctly encouraging thing, and is obviously due to the educational campaigns being carried on by the churches, newspapers and various organizations. Officers are responding to enlightened public opinion, and doing a great deal more to prevent lynchings."

While it is regrettable that of the nine lynchings five occurred in Georgia, the record for the entire nation is such a distinct improvement as to be gratifying to those who stand for law and order as opposed to rule of the mob. Georgia must catch step with the advance made by other states in stamping out mob violence.

Citizens of any community may safely rely upon the courts to deal justly with accused persons and by orderly methods arrive at the guilt or innocence of those accused of offenses against law and order, and in the case of guilt fix the punishment to fit the crime, with carrying out of the sentence in keeping with the law of the state.

12-31-36

GEORGIA LEADS LYNCH PARADE

Courier

Pittsburgh, Pa.

1-2-37

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala., Dec. 31—With a total of 5, Georgia heads the list of States in which lynchings occurred during the year 1936, according to a report from the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute. This number represents more than 50 per cent of the total number of nine lynchings for the year, Arkansas is second on the list with two chalked up against her. Florida had one and Mississippi one.

The total number of lynchings throughout the States represents 11 less than last year's total of 20.

The Lynching Record

1936	9
1935	20
1934	15
1933	28

In 35 instances, five in Northern states and 30 in Southern states, officers of the law were able to prevent lynchings.

Six of the persons who lost their lives via mob violence were taken from the custody of the law; two were taken from jails and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

CHICAGO (ILL.) TRIBUNE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1936

NINE LYNCHED IN 1936; FEWEST IN FOUR YEARS

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28.—(AP)—Nine persons have been lynched in 1936 in the United States, fewer than in any of the last four years, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee institute, said today.

~~All the~~ 1936 victims, a report from the institute's department of records and research said, were colored, and all were killed in the south.

Officers saved 35 persons from mobs, the report continued, 30 in southern and five in northern states. Armed force was used against five mobs and prisoners were removed or guards augmented to forestall mass action in other cases.

Lynch totals for recent years were announced as 20 in 1935; 15 in 1934, and 28 in 1933.

Offenses charged against lynch victims this year were: rape 3; attempted rape 3; murder 1; activity in sharecropper strike 1, charge not reported 1. Lynching by states: Georgia 5; Arkansas 2; Florida 1; Mississippi 1.

CRIME AND DISASTER

By F. D. PATTERSON
President of Tuskegee Institute

1-13-37

I SEND you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1936. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were nine persons lynched in 1936. This is eleven less than the number twenty for 1935; six less than the number fifteen for 1934, and nineteen less than the number twenty-eight for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were thirty-five instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and thirty in Southern States. In thirty of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of sixty-nine persons, seven white and sixty-two Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share-cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Panama City, Fla. News
January 23, 1937

DECLINE OF LYNCHING

Lynch law seems to be vanishing in the United States. Last year, reports President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute, there were only nine lynchings, all of negroes. In 1935 lynchings totaled 20; in 1934, 15; in 1933, 28.

In 35 other instances last year lynchings were attempted—five in the North and 30 in the South. Officers of the law saved 69 persons, of whom seven were white, during these attempts.

None of the nine persons lynched had been found guilty of any crimes Six were accused of rape or attempted rape; one of murder; one of activity in the share-cropper strike.

Five of the nine lynchings occurred in Georgia, two in Arkansas, and one each in Florida and Mississippi.

'There is good reason to be pleased at the improvement of the record, but even one lynching would be too many. There was no doubt in any of these cases that the law would do its duty if the prisoner turned out to be actually guilty of the crime charged. But hysterical mobs hungry for a victim—any victim—satisfied their desire for retribution by punishing men who might have been innocent of the charges against them.

Incidentally, it is worth noting that with a decline of lynching has come a decline in the crime which lynching was thought to inhibit—Evening Independent.

Lynchings-1936
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. - Dec.

5488

Harlowton, Mont., Times
THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1937

Lynching In 1936

According to the Tuskegee Institute annual bulletin on the subject, only 9 persons were lynched in the United States last year, the smallest number in any year except one since records have been kept, that being 1932, when there were only 8 lynchings.

All 9 persons lynched in 1936 were Negroes, and the offenses charged were: Rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1. Lynchings occurred in the following states: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia 5; Mississippi, 1.

Figures compiled at Tuskegee indicate that officers of the law saved 69 persons from death at the hands of mobs during the year, and of this number 7 were white.

The crime of lynching has greatly decreased in recent years, due largely to increased vigilance on the part of officers of the law, and especially through prompt removal of certain classes of suspected criminals to more secure prisons at a considerable distance from the localities where these crimes were committed.

Lynchings in the United States reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white. During the last five years lynchings have occurred as follows: In 1932, 8; in 1933, 28; in 1934, 15; in 1935, 20; in 1936, 9.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances.

FOSTORIA OHIO TIMES
MONDAY JANUARY 4 1937

ONLY NINE LYNCHINGS

ACCORDING to the Tuskegee Institute annual bulletin on the subject only 9 persons were lynched in the United States last year, the smallest number in any year except one since records have been kept, that being 1932, when there were only 8 lynchings

All 9 persons lynched in 1936 were Negroes, and the offenses charged were: Rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1. Lynchings occurred in the following states: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Mississippi, 1.

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The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and is a reflection upon any community in which it occurs. No good citizen will participate in or condone mob murder.

OTTUMWA IOWA COURIER
SATURDAY JANUARY 9 1937

LYNCHINGS DECREASE.

[Wisconsin State Journal.]

Lynchings are decreasing in the United, States.

Statistics given out from the colored college at Tuskegee, Ala., show there were only nine lynchings in the United States during 1936 against twenty in 1935, fifteen in 1935 and twenty-eight in 1933.

Thirty-five persons were rescued by officials from mobs in 1936, thirty in the southern and five in the northern states.

These figures showing that the number of persons who have suffered death because of misguided individuals disregarding law and order and taking the punishment for alleged crimes into their own hands, were less this year than in former periods are encouraging but they also confirm that there are still many people in this country who do not understand that lynchings are a relic of a barbaric age and that every time a lynching occurs it is a blot on the national escutcheon.

How far the people of some localities are yet from ideas of right and justice can be judged when it is said that one of the persons who died at the hands of a lawless mob was a share-cropper whose only offense was that land owners considered him an agitator because he demanded better conditions for the people who were being exploited through unconscionable contracts as to the crop division from other people's land that they tilled.

The figures as to the reduction in lynchings indicate that the people in all parts of this country are waking up to a proper belief that courts and the proper administrative officials should have charge of the cases of persons who are charged with crimes and that mob activities are not only unlawful but in themselves a crime against the nation.

MASON CITY IA GLOBE GAZETTE
SATURDAY JANUARY 9 1937

Law of Lynch on Wane

LYNCHINGS are decreasing in the United States.

Statistics given out from the college for Negroes at Tuskegee, Ala., show there were only 9 lynchings in the United States during 1936 against 20 in 1935, 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933. Thirty-five persons were rescued by officials from mobs in 1936 in the southern and 5 in the northern states.

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BUCYRUS OHIO TELEG FORUM
SATURDAY JANUARY 9 1937

LYNCHINGS DECREASING

THE Tuskegee Normal and Industrial institute of Tuskegee, Alabama, recently released a heartening report showing that the south is gradually drifting away from the idea that a colored man must be lynched in a manner reminiscent of dark ages for every crime committed upon a white person. The institute, a school for the training of colored young men and women, reports that there were only nine Negroes lynched during 1936 in only five states, Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5, and Mississippi, 1.

The total offers a marked contrast with other years. In 1935 there were 20 lynchings, 11 more than the last year; in 1934 there were 15, and in 1933 twenty eight were reported. Causes for the 1936 lynchings were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1, and unreported charge, 1. Perhaps the growth of crime among whites, especially that of rape and murder, is responsible for lessening the craving for "lynching parties" The north has never been able to understand why a colored man should be hanged to a tree for the infrequent commission of a crime that is committed daily by white men not only in the south but in every state, and almost every city.

Nine lynchings, despite the decrease from a year ago, is still a disgrace to a supposed civilized people.

ST. LOUIS MO. POST-DISPATCH
JAN. 5, 1937 J12

Dixie—Citadel of Lynchers

From the Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch.

THE year just ended had the lowest number of lynchings in half a century, with one exception, according to figures released from Tuskegee Institute. Only nine persons were put to death in this fiendish fashion during 1936, one more than for 1932, when the best record of all was made.

The United States is the only supposedly civilized country in the world where such things occur, and yet the toll of lynchings continues year by year, with the number lynched varying between eight and 33 since 1923. Prior to that year, the totals were much higher, and there has been a clearly discernible improvement, but despite the gratifying drop this year to nine, as compared with 20 for 1935, there seems to be little hope of abolishing lynchings in the near future.

Georgia takes its place as the lynch capital of the country during 1936, with five mob murders there during the year. Arkansas is next with two, and Florida and Mississippi have one each. All the victims were Negroes.

Georgia hasn't the worst record over the 45-year period for which statistics are available, however. The University of North Carolina News Letter recently published statistics covering this matter, and Mississippi gets first place, with 462 lynchings since 1889 or 22.98 per 100,000 population. Georgia had 458, but with its larger population, this is only 15.75 per 100,000 population. Florida and Louisiana surpass Georgia in lynchings per capita.

Virginia has next to the best record in the South, with 80 lynchings during the 45 years, 71 Negroes and nine whites, or 3.3 per 100,000 population. North Carolina's showing is still better, with 66, or 2.08 per 100,000.

The honor roll in states, in which not one single lynching has taken place in 45 years, follows: Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Vermont.

Obviously, New England is a section where lynchings are unknown. The South, on the other hand, is the citadel of lynching. It is true that New England has no race problem of consequence, whereas the South has such a problem, but that is no answer. Lynchings are always wrong, for they are in defiance of law and order, they permit human beings to give way to instincts of savagery, and they frequently make innocent persons their victims.

It may be taken for granted that another Federal anti-lynching bill will be introduced at the approaching session of Congress. What will be its fate? The Costigan-Wagner bill probably would have passed in 1935, except for a filibuster by Southern Senators.

Instead of arranging filibusters, members of the national legislature from the South would do well to remedy the evil which leads to the periodic introduction of corrective measures at Washington. It is good news that only nine persons were put to death by lynchers during 1936, but how long will it be before there are none at all?

FLORENCE, ALA., HERALD
JAN. 8, 1937 J12

ONLY NINE LYNCHINGS

According to the Tuskegee Institute annual bulletin on the subject, only 9 persons were lynched in the United States last year the smallest number in any year except one since records have been kept, that being 1932, when there were only 8 lynchings.

All 9 persons lynched in 1936 were Negroes, and the offenses charged were: Rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1. Lynchings occurred in the following states: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

Figures compiled at Tuskegee indicate that officers of the law saved 69 persons from death at the hands of mobs during the year, and of this number 7 were white.

The crime of lynching has greatly decreased in recent years, due largely to increased vigilance on the part of officers of the law, and especially through prompt removal of certain classes of suspected criminals to more secure prisons at a considerable distance from the localities where these crimes were committed.

Lynching in the United States reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white. During the last five years lynchings have occurred as follows: In 1932, 8; in 1933, 28; in 1934, 15; in 1935, 20; in 1936, 9.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and is a reflection upon any communty in which it occurs. No good citizen will participate in or condone mob murder.

CYNTHIANA, KY., DEMOCRAT
JAN. 7, 1937 J13

LYNCHINGS DECREASE

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

STILLWATER OKLA. PRESS
JAN. 2, 1937 J12

NINE LYNCHED DURING 1936, SCHOOL REPORTS

Nine persons were lynched in the United States during 1936, according to information released recently from the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial institute for the training of young negro men and women.

The institute, located at Tuskegee, Ala., reported that this year's number of lynchings is eleven less than the twenty of 1935; six less than the fifteen of 1934, and nineteen less than the twenty-eight of 1933.

Six persons lynched were in the hands of officers, two being taken from jails and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were thirty-five instances in which officers prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and thirty in southern states.

Of the nine persons lynched all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, three; attempted rape, three; murder, one; activity in sharecropper strike, one; and charge not reported, one.

NEWTON KS REPUBLICAN
JAN. 5, 1937

According to the Tuskegee Institute record of lynchings, 1036 made quite a record, there having been only nine cases of mob execution of victims accused of crime. All nine were in southern states. All the victims were Negroes. It seems that racial habits are hard to break away from, and certain crimes committed in the South can only be properly adjudicated by Old Man Lynch, according to the habit of thinking in that section.

LYNCH FIGURES DROP

Only Nine Persons Were Victims of Mob Violence in 1936

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 27.—Ac- [redacted] is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; six less than the number 15 for 1934, and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of [redacted] officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and 30 in southern states. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, seven white and 62 negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the nine persons lynched, all were negroes. The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas 2, Florida 1, Georgia 5, Mississippi 1.

BIRMINGHAM ALA. POST
JAN. 25, 1937 J29

STATE ESCAPES 1936 LYNCHING, BUT NOT NATION

However, U. S. Record Was Second Best In Dark History Of Mobs

Alabama ended 1936 without a lynching. But lynch violence took the lives of nine persons, all Negroes, last year in the United States the lowest record since 1932, a Tuskegee Institute report said today.

In the last year Arkansas had two lynchings, Florida one, Georgia five and Mississippi one. In 1936 a total of 20 met this fate in the nation and in 1934 there were 15 lynchings. Twenty-eight died similarly in 1933, but only eight in 1932.

In Alabama's record of lynchings from 1882 through 1936, a total of 47 white men and 296 Negroes have met death at the hands of a mob.

In both 1891 and 1892, darkest years for violence in Alabama's history, the state had 24 lynchings.

Record Is Dark

But the trend toward observance of law and order has produced eight spotless years—without a single lynching—out of the last 13 in Alabama. From 1921 to the present, the state has never exceeded three lynchings in any one year.

During the 54 years since 1882, only Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas have had worse records than Alabama for lynching. The darkest of all is Mississippi's with a total of 564 lynchings, 221 more than Alabama, 50 more than Georgia and 76 more than Texas.

In 1892 the all-time high was registered in the nation, with a total of 162 Negro and 69 white victims.

Causes Of Lynchings

Tuskegee Institute's report insists that criminal assault is not the major cause of lynching. The national figures compiled by the Institute show that only one-fourth of the lynchings was attributed to that crime. More than 10 per cent in the 1932-1936 period were for such offenses as "being a witness, writing insulting notes, improper conduct, insisting on eating in a restaurant when refused service, threatening with a knife, trying to act like a white man and not knowing his place, being a strike breaker, using insulting language, striking white men in a quarrel, discussing a lynching, making boastful remarks, misleading mob, vagrancy, slapping boys, jumping labor contracts, insisting on voting, gambling, incendiarism, throwing stones and enticing servants away," according to a report from Tuskegee.

Only in 1932 and 1936 could the national total of lynchings be written in one figure, according to the report for the 1882-1936 period.

Commenting on the decline of lynching in 1936, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said: "The return of better business conditions has removed the feeling of unrest which invariably leads to racial bitterness."

Lynchings - 1936
6
Reports on: Sent Press.

Jan. —Dec.

5489

SHARP DECREASE IN LYNCHINGS NOTED

Advertiser

Tuskegee President Lists Factors Responsible For Good Record In 1936

12-28-36
Montgomery, Ala.

TUSKEGEE, ALA., Dec. 28.—(AP)—The return of prosperity, better racial relations and excellent work by law enforcement agencies were given today by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, as prime factors in the sharp reduction in lynchings in 1936.

The Institute's department of records and research announced deaths from mob violence dropped to nine, all negroes and all in Southern states, this year as compared to 20 in 1935, 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933.

Dr. Patterson said "the return of better business conditions removed a feeling of unrest, which is more apt to lead to violence than under ordinary conditions."

"Better racial feeling and better understanding, both promoted by continuous educational campaigns, also contributed to the better showing," he said.

"The fine attitude of Government officials and law enforcement agencies such as the prompt and fearless action of Gov. Graves, of Alabama, in several instances, ended several threatening situations," Dr. Patterson said.

"We hope, and have reason to believe," he said, "this trend away from mob action will continue."

Lynchings reported by the Institute, by states:

Georgia 5; Arkansas 2; Florida 1; Mississippi 1.

Thirty-five persons were saved from possible mob action, the report said, including five in Northern states. Armed force was used in five instances.

In Atlanta, Dr. R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, said "the decrease in the number of lynchings is a distinctly encouraging thing.

"It is obviously due to the educational campaigns being carried on by the churches, newspapers and various organizations. Officers are responding to enlightened public opinion, and doing a great deal more to prevent lynching."

NINE LYNCHED DURING 1936

Journal
1-2-37

11 Less Than 1935

Dec. 28—The following information concerning lynchings for the year, 1936, according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institue shows the following: That there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20, for 1935; 6 less than the number 15, for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails, and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

Savannah, Ga.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and thirty in Southern states. In thirty of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in sharecropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1, Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1.

1936 RECORD SHOWS LESS LYNCHING!

[illegible]
12-31-36

Tuskegee Institute, Ala.—Dear Sir: I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

[illegible]

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 30 in Southern States. In 30 of the instances the prisoners were removed from the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes.

Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia 5; Mississippi, 1.

Yours very truly,
F. D. PATTERSON, Pres.

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9 LYNCHINGS DURING 1916

TUSKEGEE RECORDS SHOW ALL VICTIMS OF THE MOB WERE COLORED — GEORGIA LEADS WITH 5 — SMALLEST LIST IN THREE WEARS —69 PERSONS ESCAPED DEATH BY OFFICERS TAKING PRECAUTION

Guardian
1-2-37
Boston, Mass.

Tuskegee, through President F. D. Patterson, gives the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1936. According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 9 persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; 6 less than the number 15 for 1934; and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. 6 of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 2 were taken from jails, and 4 from officers of the law outside of jails.

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The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas, 2; Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1:

Lynching Report Of 1936 Excludes 'Mystery' Cases

Defender
1-2-37
Chicago, Ill.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31—(Special)—Statisticians compiling records on a survey made during the year 1936 report that nine persons were lynched in the United States, all of whom were members of the race. This report, of course, is incomplete. It merely tells of the known black people who were lynched.

It is not unusual for black men and women to be shot for the most trivial offenses in the deep South without any report being made beyond the immediate authorities of the county. These lynchings never reach the Associated Press. They are stifled and suppressed by county and city authorities.

Net Less than 1935

The report stated that the number lynched in 1936 is 11 less than the number 20 for 1935; six less than the number 15 for 1934, and 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. It further said six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law, two being taken from jails and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

Anyone of common information who reads the daily papers knows that this report is a half truth. There is no desire to criticize those who have the responsibility of keeping the records, but if the Associated Press and other sources of public information can be relied upon, then the records submitted on lynching by the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute is clearly in error.

Perhaps the committee on research prompted by Southern pride finds it convenient to suppress a greater part of the Southern lynch records, unless they choose to disregard entirely the trivial offenses for which black people are lynched in the South and mention only the major ones.

What Prompts Lynching

It is a known fact that in the South black men are lynched for such offenses as talking back to overseers, brushing against white women on the sidewalks, refusing to take off their hats. And there are instances of record where members of the race have been lynched who have committed no offense except knocking on the back door of a farm house and asking for food. Many such cases have been considered as attempting to "rape."

It is further known that white men have assaulted white women and when it was discovered that the assailant was white, the crime has been very readily charged to a black man. This is the southern method of clearing up the record.

There is one case in particular, which must have been overlooked by the Research committee. That of a poor farmer who was forced to climb a smoke stack at the point of a gun in Georgia and while a crowd of prominent citizens looked on and cheered he fell to his death. It was said he too had committed "rape" on a white woman and the authorities decided this new form of lynching was in keeping with Southern Christianity.

On numerous occasions, the sheriffs and other peace officers of various counties in the South have willingly aided and abetted the lynchers by making it possible for them to get thier victims without any trouble. This has been done by arresting the alleged victim and conveniently holding him until the mob formed. The Research committee failed to make any mention of the character of those who participate in the lynchings.

Associated Press dispatches often state that a whole population of a city or county turns out for the lynch festival. If this is true, then those who take part must consist of the law enforcing agencies, the mayor of the city, the school teachers, the pastors of the churches, in fact, all the leading citizens of the county.

In these lynch holidays they have often lynched the wrong man and then lynched another one to justify the mistake they made and say he was the guilty one. Certainly there is no record of the wrong victim. These festivities are attended even by babies in the arms of their mothers.

The Department of Research states that only the states of Arkansas, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi contributed to the lynchings. How did they manage to overlook the others, Alabama, Louisiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, South and North Carolina?

NINE INNOCENT PERSONS LYNCHED

Argus
1-37
St. Louis Mo.

A statement issued from the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama on lynchings in the United States during 1936 presents some interesting facts.

Of the nine lynched, only three were charged with rape. We make special reference to this number "charged" with rape, because those who seek to justify lynching, always say that lynching is necessary to protect the virtue of the white white women of the South from Negro rapists. So far as we recall, everyone of the defenders of lynching have the same old story, "Protecting white women." Everybody knows that every time a Negro is "charged" with rape, by police officers, irresponsible women, their lovers and sweethearts, does not mean that the accused is guilty. Experience has shown that there are many and varied concoctions. in the rape charges, given to the newspapers. The public will never know the extent of such mixtures.

We have mentioned the fact that the nine victims were innocent. We say this because that so far as the law is concerned, they were innocent; the presumption of the law being, ever man is innocent, until he shall have been properly charged and indicted before the grand jury and given an opportunity to defend himself before a competent court. In their cases the mob was the persecutor, judge and jury. Everybody knows that no mob is a competent judge. Therefore we feel fully justified in saying that the victims of the mobs were innocent.

Lexington, S. C. Dispatch-News
January 21, 1937

NOT IN DEFENSE OF LYNCHING

Lynchings probably originated in the south; certainly in the south there have been more executions under sentences from Judge Lynch than in any other section of the country. However, in recent years there have been a number of illegal killings by mobs outside of the bounds of what is known as the southern states.

It is not true that all lynchings are acts of the lawless and irresponsible elements of the communities in which they occur. Early lynchings in the south had their origin because of crimes worse than death in which white women were the victims, and, as a rule, a negro the offender. Such crimes outraged southern men to the point where they saw red and when the guility party was caught, punishment was swift and certain.

The larger number of lynchings were in the south because the bulk of the negro population of the country was here, and here the unspeakable crime was more often committed.

But the mob spirit is no longer peculiar to any one section of this country. In every section now, when a crime against society takes on a certain degree of atrociousness the populace—not the criminal or irresponsible element—clamors for its perpetrator, as was recently the case in two widely separated sections of the nothern part of these United States.

In New York a negro has been arrested for the cold-blooded murder of a refined and prominent young woman. The crime was brutal and probably was committed with robbery as a secondary purpose. When the man was arrested, a "mob" gathered, composed largely of women and there were cries of "lynch him," but the officers succeeded in protecting their prisoner.

In Washington state recently a 10-year-old boy was kidnapped from his home and foully murdered, this crime causing the "mob" spirit to mount and, no doubt, if the opportunity had presented itself at the time the battered, frozen and naked body of the little victim was found in the woods, fifty miles from his Tocoma home, Washington state would have had a lynching chalked up against her.

All of which goes to show that the mob spirit is not peculiar to the south; that it is not the criminal and irresponsible element that participates in lynchings; and that so long as crimes are committed that outrage all the instincts of decent men and women, there will be lynchings regardless of all the anti-lynching laws that may pass the congress or the state legislatures.

How to stop lynchings? Stop the crimes that cause them! How to stop the crimes? Who can give the answer?

Lynchings-1936
&
Side Lights.

Alabama

5492

Mathis's Slayer Eludes Capture

Advertiser
5-2-36

Total Of $425 In Rewards Now On Negro's Head; Officer's Funeral Today

Montgomery, Ala.

Twenty-four hours after Motorcycle Officer Raymond B. Mathis, of the Montgomery police department, was shot to death in the kitchen of a Boguehomme "shotgun house," peace officers last night were still searching for Walter Davis, 200-pound negro, who committed the crime.

Early yesterday Gov. Graves authorized Lawrence H. Lee, his legal adviser, to offer a $200 reward for Davis's capture, bringing the total on the negro's head to $425. Mathis's comrades on the police force Thursday night subscribed $200 in reward money and a bail bondsman offered a personal reward of $25.

The esteem in which Mathis was held by other members of the force and other law enforcement agencies intensified the search for his slayer, but nothing had been heard of Davis last night to add to the clue received by policemen the night before. Immediately after the crime, a filling station attendant near 820 High Street, where Mathis was shot, told officers he saw Davis proceeding south on Jackson Street.

Col. William P. Screws, commissioner of public safety, last night recalled that Mathis was the first member of the Montgomery police department to lose his life in the line of duty since Patrolman R. C. Wright was slain at the corner of Church and Molton Streets more than five years ago. Col. Screws also recalled Mathis's service overseas in the 167th Infantry which the former commanded. "He was a splendid, brave soldier and peace officer," Col. Screws said

Complete descriptions of Davis were furnished last night by Chief Walter K. McAdory to all members of the State Highway Patrol throughout Alabama, with special instruction to be on the alert for any negro answering the description, especially at or near the State line and to cooperate in every other possible way in efforts to effect his capture.

The State Convict Department is also cooperating in the manhunt. Chief Clerk Dave Birmingham said yesterday afternoon that the negro's description had been sent to Kilby Prison to be printed in official notice form and sent from there to sheriffs and police chiefs in all sections of Alabama as well as to heads of police departments and other authorities throughout the country.

All members of the Julian M. Strassburger Chapter, Rainbow Division veterans, have been requested to assemble at Diffly's Funeral Home today at 9:45 a.m. to attend the funeral services which will be held at 10 o'clock. Officer Mathis, who served overseas during the World War with the 167th U. S. Infantry of the 42nd, Rainbow Division, was one of the chapter's most popular and active members.

Policeman Shot Dead By Negro; Big Posse Out

Advertiser

Motorcycle Officer Mathis Slain On High Street But Murderer Escapes

5-1-36

Killer 6 Feet Tall

Citizens Join Policemen In Combing Boguehomme Section For The Slayer

Montgomery, Ala.

All available policemen and a posse of citizens early last night were scouring the negro settlement at High and Jackson Streets in search of a black giant who at 8:20 p.m. shot and killed Motorcycle Patrolman Raymond B. Mathis, 36, of the Montgomery police department.

Mathis accompanied by Officer L. P. Miller had gone to a negro dwelling near the High and Jackson Street intersection on a mission of investigation. Miller was at the back door but the towering negro rushed out the front door, shooting. He sent a pistol slug through Mathis's neck and the policeman died almost instantly.

Before Miller could reach the front of the house, the murderer had fled.

Acting on information gained in a hurried investigation, the police issued a murder warrant for a negro named Walter Davis. He was described as six feet, three inches tall; very black in color with a scar extending from the back of his head around the left side. He wore a dark suit and a cap.

When Miller heard the shot, he shouted his companion's name. There was no answer. He rushed around the house to find Mathis lying just inside the front door of the house, his pistol still in its holster. There was no sign of the negro killer.

Miller ran to a filling station in sight of the house and sent in the alarm. The filling station attendant told the officer he saw the negro running in the direction of the State Normal School for negroes in the heart of the Boguehomme district. The manhunt was focused on that area.

Responding to Miller's report, Officers Collins and Young sped to the scene and arrived just before Mathis died.

Policemen off duty were called in and armed with sawed-off shotguns. All available officers of the sheriff's force joined the search.

Railroad detectives were notified to scrutinize outgoing trains. News of the crime was flashed to members of the Highway Patrol, some of whom were taking part in the search.

At police headquarters it was learned that Walter Davis, the negro sought for the crime, had been released from custody earlier in the day after his mother had paid for property which the negro had been accused of defacing. Why Mathis and Davis had gone to his home was not immediately known at headquarters.

Mathis joined the police force in 1931 and was popular with his fellow officers. His brother-in-law, Guy Blake, was killed several years ago at the Greystone Hotel where he was employed as house detective.

Calhoun Posse Seeking Negro

Soldiers Sent There Again To Hunt Man Accused Of Insulting White Girl

ANNISTON, ALA., July 31.—(AP)—Rural Calhoun County, where a manhunt recently recoiled in a strained Anniston racial situation, was the scene again today of an intensive search—for a negro accused of an offense against a white girl.

National guardsmen were ordered by Gov. Graves to the river bottoms near Ohatchie where 100 possemen were beating the brush for the unidentified negro.

Bloodhounds were sent from Kilby Prison at Montgomery.

Reports from the rural area said a 16-year-old girl was approached by the negro and threatened while she was milking this morning. The girl was quoted as saying the negro made an insulting proposal and told her "I could just drag you off in the woods and no one would ever know the difference."

She screamed, information received here related, and her brother dashed from the house with a shotgun. The negro fled.

The attack of a white woman fired a similar manhunt in another Calhoun rural section, near Alexandria, less than a month ago. State militia was called, and the troops patrolled negro residential areas of Anniston several days after the arrest of Roosevelt Collins, negro, brought threat of a racial clash.

State patrolmen announced Collins was identified by the attack victim and later confessed in Kilby Prison where he was taken for safekeeping. His trial was set here for next Monday.

The guardsmen were rushed to the search area today from nearby Talladega where they have been on patrol duty since last week when labor violence in that city's textile mill district killed two persons and wounded 17 others.

As the new manhunt got underway, two sawmills near the girl's home closed down while the workers joined the possemen.

[illegible]

Following receipt of a request from Circuit Judge R. B. Carr that troops be sent to the scene of the threatened attack, where a crowd of between 100 and 150 citizens, he said, were hunting for the negro, Gov. Graves directed that the aid asked for be sent, and Adjt. Gen. John C. Coleman immediately ordered 35 National Guardsmen to Ohatchee. The troops were detailed for this special duty, from the force that has been stationed in Talladega in connection with labor troubles there.

In addition to the Guardsmen sent, Chief Walter K. McAdory of the State Highway Patrol also ordered all patrol officers in the Anniston district, to proceed to the locale of the manhunt, and cooperate with the troops and local authorities. A sawmill at Ohatchee was forced to suspend operations during the afternoon, when all employes deserted their jobs to join in the search for the negro.

Early in the day, trail-dogs kept at Kilby Prison were sent to the sheriff of Calhoun County, to assist in running down the fugitive.

Goodwater Negro Held For Trying To Enter Home

GOODWATER, ALA., July 31.—(Special) — Henry Slaughter, 35-year-old negro was arrested early today by town officers who said the negro tapped on a window and then tried to break into the home of W. T. Moon. The negro was removed to the county jail at Rockford.

Officers said the negro came to the Moon house shortly before midnight last night and tapped on the window, asking Mr. Moon's daughter to let him in the house. The young woman refused and the negro tried to prize open the front door, officers said. She then telephoned the police and officers came to the house and arrested the negro.

A Goodwater negro was electrocuted at Kilby Prison early Friday morning for an attack upon a young white girl.

[illegible]

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
TRIBUNE

JUL 29 1936

Alabama Justice

THE release of a Negro assault suspect at Birmingham after both the girl victim and her male escort had identified him as the criminal in a police line-up belongs in the book of modern marvels. Perhaps we have really lived into the dawn of that long-dreamed age wherein Man is to run his affairs by reason rather than by emotion and prejudice. The police procedure in the case:

> "When the Negro was brought in two detectives were assigned to delve into every bit of evidence that would exonerate him, and two others were assigned to assemble all evidence that would tend to establish his guilt. All started out feeling that he was guilty. But after a thorough investigation, the detective chief revealed, the two working against the Negro as well as the two taking his case reached one conclusion —innocent. . . ."

An incident remarkable in several phases. There was no lynching party nor any threat of one. There was no occasion for either, of course. Lynching has little excuse anywhere, none whatever in a large community like Birmingham, with police, jailers, courts and prosecutors on the job every day. Yet people become now and again so lost to reason that lynchings do occur in cities.

No third degree, no torture chamber, no fierce determination by the police to wring a confession from the prisoner, innocent or guilty. What are the police coming to, anyhow. Police the world over are schooled to skepticism. A prisoner's proof of innocence is suspect. We have known a few who would actually railroad an innocent person to jail rather than admit a mistake. Proof of innocence, some of them seem to think, is proof that the arrest should not have been made.

* * *

THE Birmingham detectives and their chief "concluded" that the prisoner was innocent, and freed him. That, at first glance, may suggest that the Birmingham police police have constituted themselves judge and jury, that they have assumed the authority which belongs to the courts, that they return verdicts and issue acquittals beyond their proper province.

But the police always have had such powers, probably always will have them. Beyond the police, the public prosecutors under our system exercise much the same power. We sometimes speak of our jury system as if judge and jury were the only arbiters of innocence and guilt in our criminal system. They pass, as a matter of fact, upon only a minority of the criminal cases instituted under our penal system.

Most of such cases, involving the pettier infractions of law, and suspicion of small offense, begin and end with the police. Arrest, questioning at a police station, a few hours in jail for investigation, and release closes the incident, either because innocence is established or—if the charge is only drunkenness or loitering—because the police, as judge and jury, consider that punishment has been adequate.

When the offense is more grave, and the police can't afford to act on their own responsibility, the public prosecutor takes his turn. He, too, acts frequently as judge and jury. He can refuse to press a charge for lack of evidence, and takes that course constantly, as a matter of routine, in every part of the country.

* * *

We don't hope for a widespread reversal of police practice from the Birmingham case, but the incident is rich in encouragement and suggestion. It is another item of evidence that the South is not incurably addicted to lynching. It suggests a conception of the duties of a police department which will seem strange to many a police chief and to many a patrolman and detective, but is worth thinking about.

Perhaps the old notion that the business of a police department is to arrest persons, then to wring confessions from them, then to fight in court for the acceptance of those confessions against pleas of third-degree coercion, should be revised. Perhaps it does not quite cover the duties of the department.

The proposal that the police should spend the taxpayers' money digging up evidence for as well as against a suspect is startling. But would not that be, in the last analysis, serving justice in the courts as well as in the police stations? For judges and juries are supposed to want all evidence, not merely what the police have been able to find against the defendant.

Lynchings -1936
Sidelights

Alabama

5493

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Drunken Negro Taken To Jail At Birmingham

ANNISTON, ALA., Aug. 10.—(AP)—A negro arrested on a drunkenness charge in a white woman's front yard was taken to Birmingham today for safekeeping.

Authorities said they received reports the negro had interrogated the woman about her age and marriage and that a crowd gathered at the scene.

A segment of this city was gripped by tense race feeling a few weeks ago when Roosevelt Collins, negro, was arrested for attack of a white woman in an outlying rural area and State militia was called to preserve order.

Collins later was convicted and sentenced to death.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
August 8, 1936

Justice For Negroes

It is sometimes charged that the Negro frequently does not get justice from the courts and decent treatment from the police in the South. Well, there is no perfect justice on this earth; sometimes Southern juries do err and sometimes law-enforcement officers do get rather rough with Negroes.

But, in this connection, it may be noted that a Birmingham Negro, identified by a young white woman who was attacked, and by her companion, as her assailant, is believed to have been proved innocent by the Birmingham police as a result of their investigations. He therefore was released.

Identifications, no matter how honest and positive, police know, can be mistaken. And so, Detective Chief Giles, confronting the Negro's insistence on his innocence, assigned two men to establish that innocence, if it could properly be done. The result of their work was to convince the men that the Negro is innocent.

The case recalls that other in which a Negro, identified by a white woman as her assailant, was recently freed by a white jury in Jefferson County on the testimony of other white persons tending to prove the defendant's innocence.

These two cases are cited to show that justice can operate very effectively to protect the Negro in the South.

There may be some misguided and deeply prejudiced persons who will say that this kind of comment tends to deepen the danger of Negro assaults on white women. Of course, this comment implies nothing whatever that should cause any doubt as to the unspeakable horror here felt, as it is felt by all right-minded persons, at the thought of a criminal attack upon a woman. Such ghastly crimes are not mitigated by the conviction of innocent persons. The horror of the episodes thus is only increased. Nobody would question that—in his right mind and temper—although there have been times when inflamed extremists have advocated and executed some very drastic exemplary measures.

SIX ARE WOUNDED DURING GUN BATTLE

White Posse and Negroes Near Anniston Clash in Kidnap Report.

ANNISTON, Ala., Aug. 10.—(AP)—Six Calhoun county residents were reported wounded, two seriously, in a gun battle late Monday night between a posse of white men and negroes, at a negro settlement about five miles northwest of Anniston.

The shooting, described by Mayor Coleman of Anniston as near race riot, came as an aftermath of a lengthy search by a posse of white men who had trailed a negro reported to have attempted the kidnaping of a white baby.

Mayor Coleman called on the state to rush all available state highway patrolmen to the scene.

The injured men were members of a smaller group of the posse which went to a negro house.

As soon as the smaller group reached the house, it was reported, they were fired upon by several persons, apparently hiding in ambush.

Three of the injured were rushed to Garner hospital here and three wounded men were reported en route in another ambulance.

Lynchings - 1936
Side Lights.

Arkansas.

5494

Preacher-Farm Hand Shoots Two Officers; Slain By Posse

Rev. Charles Evans, Preacher-Farmer, Is Fatally Shot By Armed 'Mob' of 30 Officers.

FORT SMITH, Ark., July 9.—(ANP)—Rev. Charles Evans, Negro preacher-farm hand, was shot to death by a mob of 30 armed officers and citizens Wednesday after he had created a two-hour reign of terror and wounded two members of the Ft. Smith police force.

Chief of Detectives D. M. Willis and Detective Jack McDowell, were confined in a local hospital receiving treatments for wounds they suffered when Evans fired on them as they sought to arrest him for allegedly causing a disturbance.

The country preacher was described as suffering from "a spell of unbalanced religious zeal." He first ran amuk at the home of his employer, Matt Maisner, and later fled to the home of an aged Negro woman as Maisner's wife summoned aid.

Barricading himself in this home, Evans fired upon Willis and MacDowell as they approached the house. One charge struck Willis in the right arm and the other knocked a gun from the hand of MacDowell and amputated the thumb and first finger of his right hand.

Sebastian county Jailer J. W. Harwell, walking with the other two officers, narrowly missed being hit. A riot call was immediately sent to every available officer here and armed citizens also rushed to the scene.

Surrounding the house, members of the possee commanded Evans to surrender but he refused. Tear gas bombs were used in a futile effort to dislodge him, but after the mob fired nearly 100 rounds of ammunition into the house, Evans was killed. It was learned six shots took effect in his body.

Pittsburgh Courier
7-18-36

Preacher Slain by Mob; Year's Toll Is Eleven

FORT SMITH, Arkansas. (ANP) — The Rev. Charles Evans, preacher-farmhand, was shot to death by a mob of thirty armed officers and citizens, Wednesday, the eleventh colored person to meet such violence this year.

The charge: too much religious zeal and creating a disturbance.

Barricading himself in the home of an aged woman, the

Afro American
Baltimore, Md.
7-11-36

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overnor, and when he was mal-
y invited to attend the press
onference he threw a bombshell
nto the assembly by asking Gov-
rnor Landon what he would do
bout lynching, the civil service
ystem and relief if elected.

Face Reddens

The GOP nominee's face turned
ed. It was just like a bolt of
ghtning out of clear blue sky.

E. Ross Bartley of Chicago,

Lynchings-1936
Side Lights.
9
6

Florida

5495

5495

36-YEAR-OLD MAN, SUN OF MINISTER, IS SHOT DOWN BY IRED MOB

Atlanta Daily World

9-10-36

(SPECIAL TO SNS)

GREENSVILLE, Fla.—(SNS)—Taken into custody by a mob of 40 infuriated white persons the past week end here for undetermined reasons, 36-year old Theodore Young, son of the well known local minister, Rev. G. W. Young, was shot down in cold blood, his body riddled with bullets.

8

At home Friday evening around 6:30 o'clock with his mother, Mrs. G. W. Young, the murdered man was mobbed and, before he had time to speak or act in his defense, was ganged and a short while later dropped to earth with a barrage of shots fired from shotguns at close range.

Atlanta, Ga.

For two days, the mob refused to allow the dead man's body to be removed. However, it was turned over to a local colored funeral home early Monday and was buried quietly and unceremoniously.

The lynching of Young here the past week made the lynch total for the year in the United States eight. However, it was Florida's first. The last lynching prior to the one here last Friday occurred at Dalton, Georgia, being that state's fourth of the year—exactly half of the total for the entire United States during 1936.

Of the eight lynchings this year the states other than Georgia and Florida to account for one are Texas, Olkahoma, and Arkansas. Forty-three states of the Union and the District of Columbia have escaped the lynch evil.

Following the lynching of Young here, there was widespread speculation as to the motive which prompted the maddened crowd to commit its shameful act.

Florida Posse Lynches Negro

Daily Worker

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Sept. 27.—The lynching of a Negro, kept secret and unpublished for two weeks, leaked out here today.

The lynch victim, thought to be Buckie Young, was shot to death Sept. 11, after being accused of "attacking a white woman." The lynching occurred in Greenville.

With the callousness of one who learned that a chicken's head has been wrung off, Sheriff G. L. Morrow stated:

9-28-36

"All the information I can get is that this Negro attacked a white woman and that someone in the posse killed him."

New York

The Sheriff's statement was made to J. P. Newell, secretary to Governor Sholtz, who asked for an "offical report" on the murder.

N.Y.

Governor Dave Sholtz's office today directed Sheriff Morrow and Prosecutor J. L. Kelley, of Madison County, to "make every effort" to apprehend the persons responsible for the lynching.

Everglade Posse Boosts Lynching List to Thirteen

Afro-American

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Buckie Young, a young man, was shot to death at Greenville on September 11, by a posse of whites for an alleged attack on a white woman, sending the year's lynching total to thirteen, it has been learned here.

10-3-36

Questioned, Sheriff G. L. Morrow stated, "All the information I can get is that Young attacked a white woman and that someone in a posse killed him." The statement is reported to have been made to J. P. Newell, secretary to Governor Sholtz, who asked for an "official report" on the murder.

Baltimore, Md.

Sheriff Morrow and Prosecutor J. L. Kelley of Madison County, were ordered on Sunday by Governor Sholtz to "make every effort" to apprehend the persons responsible for the lynching.

Lynchings-1936
Side Lights.

Georgia.

5496

Beating of Negro Charged to Four

Telegraph

White Men Allegedly Attacked Sawmill Hand

11-28-36

AMERICUS, Ga., Nov. 27.—Four white men, all residents of Friendship community, have been indicted here for an alleged brutal attack on Henry Johnson, Negro. The Negro is alleged to have been attacked and beaten unmercifully during the night of Aug. 1. His attackers, officers here say, took Johnson from his home during the night and after beating him, left the Negro lying in the road. Macon, Ga.

The alleged beating was said to have been administered because the white men accused Johnson of not having paid a debt owing by him to one of the alleged attackers. Jim Drew, a white sawmill operator who employed Johnson, is said to have found the Negro and cared for him since the date of the alleged attack. Drew accompanied Johnson to Americus this week, when Johnson testified before the grand jury of Sumter superior court. Drew has informed officers that the debt alleged to have been owing by Johnson had been paid prior to the attack, he having furnished the money for that purpose. Officers today declined to disclose names of the men indicted before they are arrested, but indicated two of them had fled the county. One of the four has been arrested, Sheriff McArthur said, and a second member has been located, with his arrest to be made within a few days.

Georgia Policeman Dying; Negro Assailant Escapes

Advertiser 11-30-36

ATHENS, GA., Nov. 29.—(AP)—Policeman Herman Stein was shot through the head early today when he attempted to arrest a ngero on a burglary charge. Hospital attendants said the officer had no chance to live. Montgomery, Ala.

Chief of Police Weldon said Stein went to the negro's residence and that the man sought ran out, wrested the officer's pistol from him and opened fire. 11-30-36

A large posse of citizens joined city and county officers in a hunt tonight for the negro.

Mob Hunts Wrong Man In Shooting

Defender

12-5-36

[illegible]

ATHENS, Ga., Dec. 4—Although it is a known fact that a white man shot down a police officer during a brawl, a posse numbering nearly 600 men combed the city Sunday night seeking Willie [illegible] Daniel, 45 year old farmer, who has been accused of the crime. Friends have hidden Daniel until the mob spirit cools.

Athens Policeman Is Shot by Negro

Telegraph

Posse Joins Hunt for Accused Man; Officer Will Die

11-30-36

ATHENS, Ga., Nov. 29 (AP)—Policeman Herman Stein was shot through the head early today when he attempted to arrest a Negro on a burglary charge. Hospital attendants said the officer had no chance to live. Macon, Ga.

Chief of Police Weldon Wood said Stein went to the Negro's residence and that the man sought ran out, wrested the officer's pistol from him and opened fire.

A large posse of citizens joined city and county officers in a hunt tonight for The Negro.

NEGRO SLAYER IS SHOT DEAD, THEN BURNED

Telegraph

5-25-37

Bainbridge Mob Takes Body After Officers Kill Reed When He Tries Escape

Macon, Ga.

PYRE MADE IN BALL PARK

Confessed Killer of Two Women Dragged Around Public Square Behind Cars

BAINBRIDGE, Ga., May 24 (AP)—A mob estimated at more than 100 men entered a Negro undertaking parlor here tonight, took the body of a Negro identified by Sheriff W. J. Catledge as Willie Reed, confessed slayer of two white women, and dragged it around the public square behind a procession of automobiles,

The automobiles then moved into a Negro baseball park at the edge of town and a pyre was made out of boards knocked off the fence. The body was burned.

Sheriff Catledge a short time before announced that Reed had been shot and killed while deputies were taking him to an Albany jail.

Confessed Slaying Both

He had been arrested earlier in the day at Dothan, Ala., where the sheriff said he confessed the slaying of two women, one 16 and the other 30 years old. One of the bodies was found Sunday by farmers searching for lost cattle, the other yesterday.

Reed was shot, Sheriff Catledge said, when he suddenly wrenched open the door of the deputies car with his handcuffed hands, and fled toward the woods. The car was traveling about 35 miles an hour, Catledge said.

He said the deputies in the car were H. G. Pollock, R. A. Stephens and H. J. Rhames.

Informed that the mob had taken the body from the undertaking establishment Sheriff Catledge said:

"I'm mighty sorry to see this happen."

Sheriff Catledge said the Negro's confession told of following the two victims down a lonely road in a piney woods tract near here.

Girl is Attacked

He first felled the elder woman, he said, knocking her unconscious, and then pursued the girl about 400 yards where he felled her and attacked her. He attempted to mutilate the bodies to prevent identification of them, the sheriff said.

Russell Pope, a farmer, told the sheriff of seeing the Negro following the two women, leading to the search for Reed.

Reed was captured without a battle in a loft at Dothan, Ala., this afternoon. Catledge said Dothan was the slayer's home.

Because there is no jail in Decatur county, deputies were taking Reed to the jail at Albany. Sheriff Catledge said he met his deputies and their prisoner outside of Bainbridge and that they did not bring him into town.

The sheriff said his deputies were circling on a by-road to reach Albany when Reed made his attempt to escape.

Catledge reported the Negro came to Decatur county Thursday from Baker county where he had been employed as a turpentine worker.

The 30-year-old woman was a farm worker living near Colquitt, several miles north of here. The father of the girl was employed on the same farm as the older woman.

The girl was found about 400 yards from a secluded pond. The other body was found on the shore of the pond located about four miles northwest of here on the Bainbridge-Newton road.

Lynchings—1936
Side Lights.

Georgia.

5497

FLOGGERS OF NEGRO STRIKER ACQUITTED

BY ALL WHITE JURY

MAN TAKEN FROM JAIL

At Pooler, Georgia

Journal [illegible]
Savannah, Ga.

Three white men accused of taking a Negro prisoner, Freddie Morgan from jail, and beating him into insensibility on last night at Pooler, Ga., were acquitted here, today, by an all white jury in Chatham County City court.

The men, Rober Blitch, Lloyd Beatty and W. R. Matthews, all poor white lumber mill overseers of Pooler, denied having taken the prisoner from the jail after arresting him shortly before at the request of Town Marshall Bird, although it was admitted Matthews struck Morgan in the face several times at the time of the arrest because he "thought the nigger had a knife in his pocket."

In summary the state's case was as follows:

The defendants using the jailer's key, removed Morgan from the jail late at night, hurried him to the woods in the car of one of the defendants, Robert Blitch, and there joined by nearly a hundred other Poolerites, beat him badly, for no good cause. Although Morgan had been jailed by Town authorities, on the complaint of the defendants, for allegedly being drunk and attempting to cause other lumber mill workers to strike, the man has never been tried for these alleged offenses, nor was he re-arrested after being assaulted by the mob, despite the fact that he has lived at his house [illegible] since the occurrence.

The defendants presented numbers of character witnesses who vouched for their good reputation and the bad reputation of Freddie Morgan. They also presented several alibi witnesses, who placed them far from the scene of the flogging at the time was supposed to have been administered. Town Marshal Bird, during his testimony, declared that the prisoner escaped from the jail authough he did not understand how, since nothing was broken.

The all white jury returned a verdict of not guilty in less than seven minutes.

PRISONER IS TAKEN

Georgia Sheriff Yields Negro Near Columbus

Constitution

COLUMBUS, Ga., March 13.—(AP) A man identifying himself as Sheriff Van Horn, of Chattahoochee county, called police headquarters here late tonight to report a negro prisoner had been taken from his custody while he was en route from Macon to Columbus.

3-14-36

Desk Sergeant H. T. Whitley said the caller reported he was stopped by two automobile loads of men near Junction City, about 25 miles east of here. The men took from him W. P. Baker, a negro prisoner who had been kept in Macon since his arrest several weeks ago.

Atlanta, Ga.

Sergeant Whitley said he understood Baker was accused of attacks on several white women. Sheriff Van Horn advised he was coming on in to Columbus but he had not arrived at midnight.

The sheriff of Talbot county, in which the seizure was reported, said he had heard nothing of the affair. Cusseta, county seat of Chattahoochee county, had only one telephone with which connection could not be made at night.

NEGRO BROUGHT HERE TO TOWER FOR SAFETY

Constitution

Dramatically rescued from an infuriated mob by the pleas of an ailing 74-year-old judge, a negro accused of attempting to assault a white girl in Madison county is being held in Fulton tower today for safekeeping.

4-13-36

The husky prisoner, Lint Shaw, 45, was brought here late Sunday night by national guardsmen who earlier had spirited him from the jail at Danielsville, near the scene of the attempted attack.

Atlanta, Ga.

Suffering bullet wounds in the left arm and hand and an injured scalp, the negro was first taken to Athens, then transferred to the tower here. Police Chief E. A. Elder, of Colbert, said the prisoner was shot after he attacked Elder and two fellow officers with a knife.

Elder was stabbed in the lung and a deputy's hands and arms were slashed in the melee which occurred as the negro was being escorted by the officers from Colbert, where he was arrested. to Danielsville.

NEGRO IS TREATED FOR PISTOL WOUNDS

Constitution

Alleged Attacker Transferred to Hospital From Fulton Tower.

4-14-36

By the Associated Press.

Saved from a sullen mob at Danielsville by an aged judge and the national guard after he had been accused of attempting to attack a farm girl, Lint Shaw, 45-year-old negro, received treatment for serious pistol wounds yesterday.

Atlanta, Ga.

The burly negro was transferred to Grady hospital from Fulton tower, where he was held for safe keeping. He was brought here late Saturday after being threatened by a mob for five hours.

Judge B. T. Mosley, white-haired veteran of the northern superior court district, left a sick bed to make a dramatic appeal to the mob to "stop violating the law by breaking into the jail."

He authorized Sheriff T. L. Henley to deputize 100 citizens to preserve order and then called for the national guard, which hastened to the scene from storm-stricken Gainesville.

The negro, who was shot after he stabbed two officers who were taking him to jail in Danielsville, was described by physicians as in a weakened condition because of loss of blood. The bullets did not strike vital organs.

Georgia Troops Rescue Attacker

Advertiser

Negro Held For Assaulting White Girl Taken From Jail Besieged By Mob

DANIELSVILLE, GA., April 11.—(AP)—A burly negro farmer accused of an attempt to assault a white girl was rescued from the Madison County jail today by national guardsmen after a mob had stormed the place in an efforts to get him.

4-12-36

Rushing here in a six-truck motor convoy from Gainesville, Ga., where they had been on emergency tornado duty, the guardsmen, under the command of Maj. Walter B. Elliott, formed a cordon about the jail, backed a truck to the entrance, and sped away to Athens, 16 miles away, where they took Lint to the Athens General Hospital for treatment.

Montgomery, Ala.

The prisoner, listed by Sheriff T. L. Henley as Lint Shaw, 45, was shot and wounded seriously by officers after he attacked them with a knife. One of the officers, Police Chief E. A. Elder, of Colbert, was in an Athens hospital, a stab wound in his right lung. County Policeman Ralph Baird, of Danielsville, suffered cuts about the hands and arms.

The two officers said the negro attacked them unexpectedly with the knife as they were transferring him from the jail at Colbert, near where he was arrested last night, to the county jail here. The officers fired, wounding the negro three times, the sheriff said.

Before the guardsmen arrived, local officers had quieted the mob.

The crowd, estimated at about 150, had dug a small hole in the two-story brick jail when Judge Berry Moseley, 74, who presides over the Northern Superior Court Circuit, left his sick bed to go to the jail and address the crowd.

Advertiser

"Stop violating the law by breaking into the jail," the judge ordered.

Sheriff Henley meanwhile deputized about 100 citizens to assist him and the crowd quieted.

4-12-36

Judge Moseley wrote out an order instructing the sheriff to remove the negro to a hospital, because of his serious wounds.

In the jail, meanwhile, the negro prayed.

Montgomery, Ala.

Late yesterday, about sundown, a woman and two girls, one 16, the other 22, were riding near Colbert when their automobile broke down.

The woman told the girls to go to their homes, nearby. She sent for a mechanic to fix the car.

As the girls walked toward their homes, the older one said she saw a negro following. She related:

"I saw the negro running behind us. We ran. He caught up with us near a creek. The negro slapped his hand over my mouth and got out a knife.

"I screamed.

"He hollered, 'hush.'

"The girl who was with me ran for help as the negro threw me on my back in a ditch. He tore at the neck of my dress, and scratched me on the hands and legs."

Her friend returned at this point, bringing two negro farmers who lived nearby. The attacker fled when he saw the party returning.

Sheriff Henley last night arrested Shaw. He said he "wanted to be certain I had the right man, and got one of his shoes and it fitted into the tracks. The girl also identified him."

A crowd gathered at Colbert last night, but made no effort to seize the prisoner.

Today the sheriff asked the two officers to bring the prisoner to the county jail here. The stabbing of the officers occurred on the highway, near here.

A local physician treated the negro before he was taken to Athens, where an examination showed a serious wound in his body, near the shoulder, one bullet wound in the hand, and an apparently superficial wound in the scalp.

A Georgia Judge

A 74-year-old judge got up out of his sickbed and stopped a lynching by the dramatic expedient of deputizing 100 masked men who were battering at the walls of a Danielsville (Ga.) jail.

Advertiser

He told the mob their masks did not conceal their identity, that he recognized them anyway. And he commanded them to "stop violating the law" and to start enforcing it. Before this show of courage and authority the mob melted into a shame-faced cordon of civilian deputies, who kept the peace until a detachment of National Guardsmen arrived to take the Negro prisoner to the safety of another jail in another city.

4-18-36

Such courageous action does not always succeed. Other public officers have acted as boldly but have failed to turn back mobs. But a great many more lynchings have been carried out because of the default of local officers who cringed before the mob or conveniently absented themselves from the scene of the outrage.

Montgomery, Ala.

If we had more local officials of the caliber of this old Georgia judge, we should have fewer mob murders and less demand that the Federal Government assume this simple police responsibility.—New York World-Telegram.

MADISON NEGRO SENT TO HOSPITAL

Controversy Over Costs of Care Settled After Day of Argument

Constitution

A day-long controversy as to who would pay for the care of Lint Shaw, a negro held in Fulton tower for safekeeping, appeared ended last night when a Madison county commissioner notified Fulton officers to send Shaw to a hospital.

4-16-36

The negro has been held at the Fulton jail since Sunday, when he was brought here from Danielsville, where he was accused of attacking a white woman.

Atlanta, Ga.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Emmett L. Quinn wired Madison county police yesterday morning that Fulton would not hold the negro longer unless provision was made for guarding him. The negro was wounded in the arm and doctors said it will be necessary to amputate it. Quinn received an answer to his telegram saying that Madison county would not be responsible for any bills incurred in behalf of the negro.

Yesterday afternoon, however, Commissioner W. H. Compton, of Danielsville, visited Atlanta and told the Fulton chief deputy his county will bear the expense of hospitalization and that he would determine whether to put the negro under guard later.

Quinn said Fulton will not pay for

guarding the Madison county prisoner at the hospital and will not be responsible if the negro escapes

NATIONAL GUARDSMEN SAVE ACCUSED NEGRO

Constitution

4-12-36

Soldiers Rescue Prisoner After Mob Gathers at Danielsville.

Atlanta, Ga.

By RICHARD McMURRAY,
Associated Press Staff Writer.

DANIELSVILLE, Ga., April 11. (AP)—National guardsmen rescued a wounded negro farmer, accused of attempting to assault a white girl, from threatened mob violence at the Madison county jail today.

Sheriff T. L. Henley delivered the prisoner, Lint Shaw, 45, to a company of state infantrymen rushed to this city by motor convoy from tornado emergency duty at Gainesville, as a sullen crowd of 150 men looked on.

The troops, headed by Major Walter B. Elliott, calmly formed a cordon about the two-story jail, backed a truck to the entrance, obtained possession of Shaw and headed southward toward Athens, 16 miles away.

The coup was executed within about 10 minutes. Observers said the prisoner, who was shot three times last night after knifing two arresting officers, probably would be taken to Atlanta for safe keeping.

Wielding crowbars and hammers, the mob dug a small hole in the brick jail before they heeded the warning of 74-year-old Berry Moseley, superior court judge, who left his sick bed to go to the jail and warn the crowd:

"Stop violating the law by breaking into the jail."

In a dramatic plea to let the law take its course, he promised a special term of court to handle the case. Then turning to Sheriff T. L. Henley, he shouted:

"I call on all good citizens to have themselves deputized. Mr. Sheriff, I authorize you to deputize these men to see that the law is obeyed."

As the sheriff deputized approximately 100 citizens, the mob quieted and began to fall back.

A short time later, the guardsmen, under command of Major Elliott, arrived.

The negro was shot three times last night, the sheriff said, when he slashed two officers with a knife in an attempt to escape from custody.

Sheriff Henley said Shaw was identified by "the girl he choked," a young woman in a party of three whose motor car stalled at dusk yesterday near the village of Colbert, Georgia.

Screams of another girl frightened the negro away, Henley said.

He reported E. A. Elder, one of the officers stabbed by the prisoner, suffered a serious wound in a lung. The other, Ralph Baird, was slashed on the right arm and left hand.

Shaw was brought to Atlanta and placed in Fulton tower shortly before 7 o'clock last night. He was in custody of several national guardsmen and F. W. Andrews, Madison county patrolman and sheriff-elect of Franklin county.

TROOPS SAVE NEGRO FROM GEORGIA MOB

Rushed From Tornado Zone They Remove Prisoner From Jail at Danielsville.

Times

ATTACK ON GIRL CHARGED

4-12-36

Crowd Had Stormed Building, but Had Halted at the Orders of Aged Judge.

New York, N.Y.

By The Associated Press.

DANIELSVILLE, Ga., April 11.—A Negro farmer accused of an attempt to assault a white girl was rescued from the Madison County jail today by National Guardsmen after a mob had stormed the place in an effort to get him.

Rushing here in a motor convoy from Gainesville, where they had been on tornado emergency duty, the guardsmen, under command of Major Walter B. Elliott, formed a cordon about the jail, backed a truck to the entrance, and sped to Athens, sixteen miles away.

The prisoner, listed by Sheriff T. L. Henley as Lint Shaw, 45, was shot and wounded seriously today by officers after he attacked them with a knife. One of the officers, Police Chief E. A. Elder of Colbert, was in an Athens hospital, a stab wound in his right leg. County Policeman Ralph Baird of Danielsville suffered cuts on the hands and arms.

The two officers said that the Negro attacked them unexpectedly with the knife as they were transferring him from the jail at Colbert, near where he was arrested last night, to the county jail here. The officers fired, wounding the Negro three times, the Sheriff said.

Before the guardsmen arrived, local officials had quieted the mob.

The crowd, estimated at about 150, had dug a small hole in the two-story brick jail when Judge Berry Moseley, 74, who presides over the Northern Superior Court circuit, left his sick bed to go to the jail and address the gathering.

"Stop violating the law by breaking into the jail," the judge ordered.

Sheriff Henley meanwhile deputized about 100 citizens to assist him and the crowd became quiet.

Judge Moseley wrote out an order instructing the Sheriff to remove the Negro to a hospital.

In the jail, meanwhile, the Negro prayed, and Officer Baird quoted him as saying:

"You know I ain't the guilty man."

Baird said the Negro "feels certain he is going to die of his wounds," and was more afraid of them than of the mob.

[illegible]

Late yesterday a woman and two girls were riding near Colbert when their automobile broke down. The woman told the girls to go to their homes, near-by, while she sent for a mechanic to fix the car.

As the girls walked toward their homes, the elder one, [illegible] years old, said that she saw a Negro following.

The Negro seized the elder girl, drawing a knife to threaten her. The second girl ran for help, returning with two Negro farmers who lived near by. The attacker fled when he saw them coming.

ATLANTA HAS RECORDED ITS FIRST LYNCHING

Informer

9-26-36

Atlanta, Ga.

ATLANTA, Ga.—The city of Atlanta was host Saturday morning at 3 a. m. to one of the famous Georgia lynching [illegible], one of most gruesome and fiendish crimes ever committed in Georgias entire history, the horrible lynch murder of Thomas Finch, 27 year old orderly of 427 Ripley street.

Finch, a popular young man about town and a youth with a splendid record at Grady hospital where he had been employed for the past ten years, was awakened during the early morning hours of Saturday, September 12, when he heard the motors of several cars circling his home. His whole family was awakened when five big robust men allegedly officers of the law, rapped at his door. His father answered the door and was told, "we want your son Tom".

See—Crime: (Police)

Finch immediattly made his way to the door and presenteld himself, inquiring what charge he was booked on. He was told that he was under arrest for investigation. He was told to get his old working clothes. He was then pushed into one of the seven cars and whisked away. 20 minutes later his wife called the city jail and was told that Finch had not been arrested and no charge was proffered against him here. She then called the county jail and was told he was not there.

Family Becomes Alramed

At this point the entire family had gathered around her fearing mob violence. Grady hospital was called, and Mrs. Finch was tolded that Tom Finch's body had been dumped out there about 4 a. m., riddled with bullets and bearing heavy scars. One of his eyes was completely mashed in. It was estimated that nearly seven shots had entered the man's body, yet he was [illegible] dead when he was placed on the operating table He gasped, "Oh, Lord, Oh, Lord," then he lapsed into a coma from which he never revived His body was then taken to Hanley Brothers, Undertaking establishment

Informer

9-26-36

a coma from which he never sur-

Police officers of the Atlanta police department. who are accredited with making the arrest and subsequent lynching of Finch, stated to an Alanta World reporter when interviewed that Finch had resisted arregt and made an attempt to harm an officer, and was shot while fleeing loopholes ripped thru this assertion, when it developed that the man had been shot five times in the chest two of the bullets lodging in his neck, and two holes were found in his left side, where signs of powder burns was seen, proving beyond doubt that he had been shot at close range.

[illegible]

No Witnesses to Shooting Found

Although officers claimed Finch had attempted to escape and was shot in the attempt, they declined to state where the shooting took place, or who did the shooting, and no one was able to recall ever hearing any shots fired during the early morning indicating that Finch had been taken into the woods and lynched via the real Georgia fashion. Nothing was done or said about the case until early Sunday morning, when a white daily carrie da story to the effect that Finch had been shot while resisting arrest. The following day The Atlanta Daily World carried a similar story adding that the family would order an investigation. Forrester B. Washington, head of the local branch of NAACP, viewed the body and stated that he would conduct an immediate investigation.

Facts Given by Fellow Workers

Investigation by the writer disclosed the startling fact that Finch had been killed because he did not push an irate white woman around the hostpital ward when she requested. Willie Mix and Alvin Finley, both colored orderlies at Grady hospital in the white peoples ward where Finch was employed, stated that a white woman was one of the patients there, and would repeatedly call them requesting that they push her one way or the other. Finley recalled that during the week Finch had passd her in the hall, sitting in her wheel chair, and had refused to push her down the hall, telling her that he was busy, and it was not their duties to push patients over the building. This was believed attributed to the woman's becoming angry and escaping from the hospital. Rumors around the hospital were to the effect that she lold her husband that she left because she was tired of being treated "like a dog by those niggers". It is believed that she named Finch as the one who had insulted her. The actions of the mob points to this fact.

Splendid Record

Finch had a splendid a. Grady hospital, having worked there as orderly for nearly ten years under Miss Stella Myers (white); headnurse. When interviewed, Miss Myers stated that Finch had always held a perfect record and was one o fthe best orderlies they had.

Rigid Investigation to be Conducted

Jesse B. Blayton, president of the Negro Chamber of Commerce, is expected to cal la special session of the chamber members during the week to discuss the proper courses to pursue, it was learned here today. The death of Finch marks the fourth the first in Atlanta for several lynching of Negrces in Georgia and years. It will also mark one of the worst blots for the city of Atlanta, which is one of the country's outstanding educational centers, holding the distinction of being the leading city of the South. Atlanta Negroes are not going to tolerate this savagery coming from law enforcement officers. Indications were that Mayor Key would be requested to order an investigation and clean out all the crooked police officers in his department who have little regard for Negro lives. A group of Atlanta's leading Negro business men will make the official request and it is likely that Key will comply and it is seeking reelection in the coming primaries.

POSSE HUNTS NEGRO IN ATTACK AT PLAINS

AMERICUS, Ga., Dec. 28.—(AP)—A sheriff's posse pressed a widespread hunt today [illegible] a negro sought for attacking Po[illegible] Mark Chambliss, of near-by Plains.

Sheriff W. P. McArthur said Chambliss attempted to arrest [illegible] man in Plains Saturday night and that the accused man knocked him down, disarmed him of his [illegible] club and flashli[illegible] when another officer [illegible] other negroes intervened. Chambliss suffered severe bruises. McArthur said Chambliss sought to arrest the man on a long-standing theft charge.

12-29-36

Lynchings-1936
Side Lights.

Louisiana

5498

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
TRIBUNE
MAY 21 1936

Mob Gathering In Louisiana To Hang Killers

SHREVEPORT, LA., Jan. 10.—(AP)—A mob of nearly 100 white men was reported forming near Bethany, 20 miles southwest of here tonight in an attempt to lynch four negroes who this morning killed E. W. Harris, employe of the Arkansas-Louisiana Gas Company.

The negroes were taken into custody by the sheriff of Panola County, Texas, and placed in the Carthage jail this afternoon.

Harris was killed in a fight with several of his tenants who first beat him over the head with an iron bar, then shot him through the right eye with a pistol.

The tenants fled from the house where the fight occurred when Harris attempted to make the negroes move.

Officers of Louisiana and Texas were scouring bottom lands south of Bethany in search of other members of the negro family.

After Harris was hit he was badly beaten and then shot in the head, wounds on his body indicated.

Louisiana Posse Hunts Sugar Planter's Slayer

NEW ORLEANS, July 7—(AP)—Heavily armed posses hunted the woods and brush of St. John Parish north of here tonight in an extensive manhunt for Clarence Boone, negro wanted by Sheriff William Dube to face the charge of the shotgun slaying of Lionel Champagne, 45, sugar planter who formerly employed the negro.

Champagne was found with his face shot away early today in the cane fields of his plantation, the "Gold Mine," about 30 miles above New Orleans.

Negro Youth Tells How Lynch Mob Strung Him To Tree After Beating

Slow, deep-voiced Norman Thibodaux, Negro youth, told with natural drama in Federal court yesterday how he was beaten, hung by his neck until only his toes touched the ground, and finally cast bleeding into a canefield, during the lynching of another Negro in Assumption parish in 1933.

Thibodaux's story was part of testimony in a $10,000 damage suit brought against Sheriff Lezin H. Himel of Assumption parish by Louis and Lilly Moore, Negroes, for the death of their 16-year-old son, Fred, October 11, 1933. The youth was suspected of the murder of a young white girl, Miss Annie Mae Larose, whose body with throat cut was found in a canefield near Labadieville

Confesses

The girl's stepfather was later arrested and confessed, the petition stated.

The night young Moore was taken from the Napoleonville jail and hanged from the Labadieville bridge over Bayou Lafourche, Thibodaux was brought to the scene by Deputy Sheriff Fernand Richard, the Negro testified.

"Mr. Richard held the boy's arms," said Thibodaux, "while some other men beat him. Then they hung him up by his neck, right in front of me. Some little boy run and got a new rope and they beat me over the head and then strung me up, so my toes were just touching the ground. I had to stretch all I could to get a little air."

Shot Fired

Thibodaux said that the mob then took him down the road, told him to run and fired a shot over his head. He ran through the darkness into a canefield and lay bleeding until the mob had gone, said.

No signs of impending violence were evident, the sheriff could not have been aware of what was to transpire, defense witnesses testified, including Judge Sam A. LeBlanc of the First Circuit Court of Appeals, who lives in Assumption parish.

One more witness, Deputy Sheriff Abel Landry, is scheduled to testify for the defense this morning. The case, it is expected, will then go to the jury.

Louisiana Negro Sought As Slayer Of Farmer

NATCHITOCHES, LA., July 18.—(AP)—Sheriff W. M. Payne led a posse tonight in search for a negro named Pickett, whom the Sheriff said, shot John McCalister, 45-year-old white man, in the back from ambush.

Bloodhounds were sought to aid in the search.

McCalister was in a serious condition with a shotgun wound in his lung. Coroner M. H. Phelps, who attended McCalister, said he had a good chance to recover.

The shooting occurred at the Breedlove mill several miles from here, the negro fired from the nearby woods and fled, the sheriff said.

He could assign no motive for the shooting other than McCalister might have "reprimanded" Pickett for picking on McCalister's young son. Acquaintances of the negro said he was subject to "spells."

Lynchings-1936
Side Lights.

Michigan.

5499

Three Boys Try To Hang 2 for Good School Marks

DETROIT, June 5.—(AP)—Police broke into a barn today and rescued two boys who, they said, were about to be hanged by three other boys, for having good school records.

Lieutenant Michael Larco said Raymond Buccellati, 9, a member the lynching party, told him: "We were going to do like the Black Legion does."

6-6-36

The lieutenant said that when the rescue party arrived Raymond Armando Serali, 14, and Joseph Angelo, 10, had knotted a rope around the neck of Albert Valenti, 11, and were about to push him from a second-story window. Joseph Ignogni, 9, lay bound on the floor, and Lieutenant Larco said he was to have been hanged next.

Police said school authorities told them the intended victims had excellent school records.

All of the boys and their parents were ordered to appear for questioning tomorrow.

LEGION VICTIM

SILAS COLEMAN

Of [illegible] Leland Street, a 32-year-old Detroit World War veteran, who was lured into the slimy tenacles of five Black Legion members on May 2[illegible], 1935, and wantonly murdered in a marsh near Pinckney, Mich. He is survived by a wife, Eula, and a five-year-old son, Donald.—Courtesy of Detroit News.

DETROIT, MICH.
NEWS

JUL 22 1936

Killing for the Thrill

In the latest purported revelation of a Black Legion murder the public is given a new and, if possible, even more repellent insight into the nature of this organization.

An inoffensive Negro was lured to a summer cottage, where four members of the organization were staging a drinking party, and there was shot to death in cold blood. No motive existed for the killing that normal men will find easy to understand. The victim was shot just to "see how it would feel" to take the life of one of his race.

Instinctively the first reaction to this disclosure is to believe that the four implicated must be crazed. One instinctively refuses to believe that normal human beings could be capable of such bestial cruelty toward a fellow man.

Yet reason insists that these men must be "normal" as human beings go. No credible operation of mere chance would serve to bring together four lunatics, equally seized at a given moment with an identical murderous impulse.

The explanation of this crime must be sought in the moral tenets and atmosphere of the Black Legion itself. The men guilty of this murder are normal beings like the rest of us. But they are beings who, under the influence of the Black Legion, had lost their grip on the moral understanding that normally goes with sanity.

NEW YORK, N. Y.
EVENING POST

JUL 25 1936

MORE BLACK LEGION REVELATIONS

Latest and most shocking of the Black Legion revelations is the confession of Dayton Dean, its trigger man, that members of an outing shot a Negro war veteran to death near Pinckney, Mich., May 25 "just for the hell of it."

For sheer bloodthirsty depravity and viciousness it would be hard to equal Dean's story of how Black Legion members on a week-end party with their wives lured their victim, Silas Coleman, out into the country and then shot him to death for their entertainment.

It is just such abnormal sadism and pathological lust for blood and torture that mark the activities of Fascists in other countries. Their appearance in this country, in connection with a fairly widespread organization, is a challenge to decent Americans.

The new Dean confession calls attention to the soft-pedaling of the Black Legion investigation in Michigan. Six murders have been proven against this organization. Eight others are attributed to it. In addition it is held responsible in six floggings and in several cases of bombing and arson.

Grave questions are raised by the fact that three of the six murders definitely laid at the doorstep of the Black Legion, those of Jack Marchuk, Jack Bielak and Roy C. Pidcock, were murders of men active in organizing labor, notably in the automobile plants.

How high does the trail of these murders reach? How much have Michigan investigators learned? How many prominent business men or politicians are involved? These questions demand an answer and if Michigan investigators cannot answer them, Federal investigators should.

Here certainly is a job for the G-Men.

Lynchings-1936
Side Lights.

Mississippi.

5500

Dangling Body Found, Lynching Is Hinted

Afro-American
3-21-36
Baltimore Md

UTICA INSTITUTE, Miss. — Citizens are divided in opinion whether Edward Earles, 65, found dangling from the end of a rope fastened to a tree, Saturday, was murdered or committed suicide.

A coroner's jury declared it a suicide. Earles's neck was not broken and there was no sign of a struggle, or marks of violence on the body. However, there are those who believe the elderly man was murdered.

AGED MAN FOUND HANGED IN MISS., CLAIMED SUICIDE

Defender
3-21-36
Chicago Ill

UTICA, Miss., Mar. 20—Several hours after expressing his belief that it is better to die than live in hunger, sixty-five-year-old Edward Earles, a tenant farmer of this district, was found hanging by the neck from the limb of an oak tree. His neck was not broken and doctors attributed his death to strangulation.

Because there were no marks of violence on the body, the coroner's jury and Sheriff of Hinds county decided that it was a case of suicide. Race members of Utica are skeptical and refuse to believe that the white-haired old man strung himself up.

Earle had come to Utica about a year ago to live with his sister, Lucy J. Miller. He was heard to express his dissatisfaction with conditions on many occasions and quite openly.

According to the testimony of the local hardware merchant, Earle bought the grass rope, which was found around his neck, on the day before his death. Another merchant claimed that he had given him the 65 cents in change which was found on his body.

JACKSON, MISS.
CLARION LEDGER

MAR 15 1936

"Old and Despondent A Nuisance Not a Help"

So few negroes commit suicide, although the number has increased in recent years, that the Hinds county sheriff did nothing more than his duty in carefully investigating the case when the limp body of an aged negro was found dangling from a rope attached to a small oak tree near Utica Friday.

His careful and complete investigation proved beyond a reasonable doubt that the old man had killed himself. It revealed that he bought the rope and that he had had no trouble either with white people or with his own race that would indicate lynching.

Tragic and pathetic as the suicide of a hopeless old man is, it is more cheerful than a murder or a lynching, and we congratulate Sheriff Roberts on his establishing this suicide so definitely that no stigma or suspicion lays on the county.

A news story reported that relatives said the victim "was despondent because he was growing old and was becoming a nuisance instead of a help around the tenant farm home of his sister."

That is the most pathetic "epitaph" we have read in a long time. Yet it would fit many another suicide.

Someday, when our society is nearer perfection, this cause of despondency and self-destruction will be eliminated, and old age will be a dreadful dependency to fewer people, white and black. But that day is still far distant and, despite the promise of social security legislation, work and thrift in the days of manhood and womanhood are the best insurance against this tragedy for most of us.

NEGRO IS UNDER GUARD

Wounded by Posse Seeking Him for Shooting and Robbery

Commercial Appeal
4-21-36
Memphis Tenn

JACKSON, Miss., April 20—Sam Cleamon, negro ex-convict, shot and severely wounded by an Attala County posse, which had sought him for the shooting and robbery of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Turner at their store near Kosciusko, was in a local hospital today with a heavy guard at his bedside.

The negro was shot as he attempted to escape from a posse after bloodhounds had trailed him from the store to his home. Cleamon was rushed to a Jackson hospital where it was thought he would die before an operation could be performed.

The negro, however, rallied and was able to talk to officers yesterday. He is accused of shooting Mr. Turner from an open window, entering the store and clubbing Mrs. Turner over the head with a blunt instrument.

Mississippi Negroes Slash Deputy, Escape

Advertiser
11-28-36
Montgomery Ala

McCOMB, MISS., Nov. 27.—(AP)—A posse with bloodhounds searched tonight for two negroes who earlier, officers said, slashed the throat of Deputy Sheriff Hendrix Cutrer of Magnolia, with a penknife, took his pistol and made their escape.

The deputy was transferring them from the Pike County Jail to the county penal farm. They were arrested yesterday on a charge of riding freight trains.

The negroes names were given as John Forbes, 27, and Henry White, 21.

The deputy said he was dragged from his car and slashed on the throat and hands but was able to fire at them with a shotgun as they fled. He said one of the negroes stumbled and fell, as if he had been hit, but struggled to his feet again and continued his flight.

Negro Is Found Hanging By Belt From Bridge

Advertiser
12-6-36
Montgomery Ala

LAUREL, MISS., Dec. 5.—(AP)—Local officers today found the body of J. B. Grant, 17-year-old negro, hanging mysteriously by his own belt from a railroad trestle a half mile from the business district here.

First investigation failed to shed any light on responsibility for the man's death. The verdict of the coroner's jury was "death by strangulation at the hands of persons unknown."

Grant had been employed by a local tourist camp and was last seen alive last night. His employer, A. J. Carter, told officers that the negro went to town to see a show last night and did not return.

5500

New York

5501

Lynchings - 1936
Side Lights.

ARGUS

Rockaway Beach

JUL 25 1936 N Y

Fi Lynchings
Side Lights

"Black Legion" Tieup Suggested In Local Hanging Of Negro

Local Anti - Fascist Unit Expresses Doubt Of Suicide

Declaring that the death of Moses Whitehead, Negro whose body was found hanging from the guy wire of a telephone pole in Far Rockaway last week, bore all the earmarks of a "Black Legion execution," several local organizations are preparing to ask the authorities to conduct a thorough investigation of same.

The police listed the case as a suicide, noting in their reports that Whitehead slashed his wrists and then hanged himself. Miss Frances Leaf and other members of the local branch of the American League Against War and Fascism, point out that the arteries were severed and that Whitehead would have lacked the strength required to hang himself.

A Hammels Negro, whose name is withheld, states that he remarked that the hanging looked like a "Black Legion execution" and that a man who stood a few feet away said to him, "Well, what if it does? There might be more such executions here if certain people are not careful."

What Miss Lief and her colleagues are quite sure of is that some organization here is trying to introduce in the local area some of the "Jim Crow" methods which have been in effect in the South since the end of the Civil War. She states that the Negroes have no objection to being segregated in the Hammels sector, but that they do not like the idea of being discriminated against in public places. She says that such discrimination exists and that it is one of the purposes of the local branch of the American League Against War and Fascism and several other bodies to combat it.

She points out that the people she represents do not mean to resort to violence; in fact, that this would be quite contrary to their principles. Being peacemakers, they do not come with a sword. However, she appeals to all fair-minded persons to scotch any unit of the Black Legion which may exist here now or come into being in the future.

The following organizations are among those interested in the solution of the Whitehead case: American League Against War and Fascism, Socialist Party, Communist Party and the Workmen's Circle. The leaders thereof call attention to the fact that the subordinate councils of the Black Legion in Michigan preyed upon whites as well as upon Negroes and that wherever such councils exist everybody's rights are in constant danger.

Lynchings-1936
& Side Lights.

North Carolina

5502

Posse Believed to Have Lynched Man in North Carolina

Afro American

GREENVLLE, N.C. — Popular belief here this week is that a posse which set out to capture a man accused of killing a white youth and raping his companion on Thursday may have been lynched.

3-7-36

The girl, Helen Phelps, 18, white, and her escort, Alexander Warren, 18, are said to have been on a dark country lane in an auto when the suspect approached. He is said to have yanked the car door open and shot the youth without [illegible]

Baltimore, Md.

He is then reported to have dragged the girl [illegible] yards away into the woods and assaulted her. At Pitt General Hospital where Helen was treated by Dr. J. L. Winstead, it was said that she was suffering from shock, but showed no conclusive evidence of actual assault.

Sheriff S. A. Whitehurst indicated that he had clues as to the identity of the assailant, but feared to reveal them for fear of mob law pending an arrest.

Zebulon, N. C. Record
June 5. 1936

Franklin MobBeats Up Negro-Prisoner

Franklin county, scene of one of the state's worst lynchings a year ago, has had another outbreak of mob action. A negro who was in Franklinton jail for insulting a white woman, was taken out of the jail and badly beaten Sunday night. After the mob released him he went to a neighbor negro's house where first aid treatment was administered and he has not been heard of since.

Lynchings-1936
Side Lights.
6

Oklahoma.

Negro Is Slain By Oklahoma Posse After Fatally Beating Child Of 5

Advertiser 2-22-36

MANGUM, OKLA., Feb. 21.—(AP)—Trapped by 100 possemen, a negro who assertedly admitted fatally beating a 5-year-old white girl and injuring her mother critically was shot and killed today when he tried to escape.

The shooting served to decrease authorities' fears of mob violence. Extraordinary precautions were taken, however, in behalf of five other negroes held—two of them suspected of aiding in the attack.

[illegible]

The slain negro, Willie Jones, 25, a former Texas convict, fell before blasts from sawed-off shotguns only a few minutes before the girl, Alice Wilson, died in a Mangum hospital.

Physicians held out hopes for the child's mother, Mrs. Alice Wilson, 34, after a delicate brain operation. They said her skull was fractured.

She had been beaten with a heavy iron skillet and a sharp-edged hoe.

Jones was cornered in a clump of woods after possemen had searched over 50 miles of mountainous country.

Members of the posse called on Jones to surrender. He ran. Several men fired. He was struck by four buckshot.

From the murmurs of the girl, Sheriff E. N. Clabaugh pieced together a story of the attack at their farm home late yesterday. Robbery was believed the motive.

"The man came to the back door," Alice said. "Without saying anything he knocked mother down with the hoe and then hit her again with the skillet."

The girl said she screamed and the negro struck her with the skillet.

Frances, 8, another daughter, returning from school, found her mother lying on the floor and Alice lying in a closet, where she had crawled.

Frances ran a mile and a half to seek help.

A check of negro homes in the vicinity resulted in the arrests. And, at the home of one Ernest Wright, the sheriff said he was told Jones had just been there, confessing:

"I just killed a woman and I want to get away."

Negro ~~Killed~~ in Attack On Child, 5, and Mother

Girl Dies in Oklahoma; Mother Critically Ill After Brutal Beating

Telegraph

MANGUM, Okla., Feb. 21 (AP).—Trapped by 100 possemen, a Negro who assertedly admitted fatally beating a five-year-old white girl and injuring her mother critically was shot and killed today when he tried to escape.

2-22-36

Extraordinary precautions were taken in behalf of five other Negroes held—two of them suspected of aiding in the attack.

The slain Negro, Willie Jones, 25, a former Texas convict, fell before blasts from sawed-off shotguns only a few minutes before the girl, Alice Wilson, died in a Mangum hospital.

Macon Ga.

Physicians held out hopes for the child's mother, Mrs. Alice Wilson, 34, after a delicate brain operation. They said her skull was fractured.

She had been beaten with a heavy iron skillet and a sharp-edged hoe.

Cornered In Woods

Jones was cornered in a clump of woods after possemen had searched over 50 miles of mountainous country.

Members of the posse called on Jones to surrender. He ran. Several men ifred. He was struck by four buckshot.

The Jones woman was among the five other Negroes held for investigation.

She was locked in the Altus, Okla., jail. Of the Negro men, Ernest Wright was held at Mangum. The three others, Ernest McNeely, John McNeely and a Negro known to officers as "Bubbles," were taken to the state reformatory at Granite.

Crowds gathered at Mangum. Feeling still was high. Sheriff E. N. Clabaugh issued a statement calling on citizens to "refrain from demonstrations."

Girl Tells of Attack

From the murmurs of the girl, Sheriff Clabaugh pieced together a story of the attack, at their farm home late yesterday. Robbery was believed the motive. The Wilsons are well to do.

"The man came to the back door," Alice said. "Without saying anything he knocked mother down with the hoe and then hit her again with the skillet."

The girl said she screamed and the Negro struck her with the skillet.

Frances, eight, another daughter, returning from school found her mother lying on the floor and Alice lying in a closet, where she had crawled.

Frances ran a mile and a half to seek help.

A check of Negro homes in the vicinity resulted in the arrests. And, at the home of one Ernest Wright, the sheriff said he was told Jones had just been there, confessing:

"I just killed a woman and I want to get away."

Lynching Posse Kills Second 1936 Victim

ALTUS, Okla. — Willie Jones, 32, under suspicion in the axe handle attack on Mrs. Alice Wilson, 31, and her daughter, 6, white, was shot to death by a sheriff's posse southeast of Blair, Friday.

Afro-American

Jones is alleged to have beaten his victims with an axe handle and a frying pan, apparently in a robbery attempt. Ernest Hathaway, white, undersheriff, said that Jones was found by the posse of several hundred in a barn and was felled by shotgun and pistol fire as he fled.

2-29-36

Jones's wife was later tawen into custody. Officers found blood-stained clothing in their home, Hathaway, said.

[illegible]

This makes the second time this year that a lynching posse has shot to death a prisoner. Mace Gray, 40, was killed by a posse which reported he barricaded himself in a barn with a rifle and a shotgun and resisted arrest for running over two white girls with an auto. His body was riddled with bullets fired by officers and white neighbors who joined in the hunt.

Lynchings-1936
sidelights

Pennsylvania

5504

Judge Apologizes For Remarks, Is Rebuked

Impeachment Of Pro-Lynch Jurist Voted But Rejected

HARRISBURG, Pa., Aug. 14—Admonished to "go and sin no more," Judge Benjamin C. Atlee last week was permitted to retain his seat as Lancaster County judge when the judiciary committee of the House of Representatives voted 16-14 to accept the minority report of the sub-committee demanding an apology in preference to the majority report calling for impeachment.

The most hopeful action taken by the committee was an expression contained in one of its four conclusions which read:

"The committee does censure and reprimand Judge Benjamin C. Atlee for the impropriety he committed, and in doing so has in mind that this censure is only in the instant case and is not intended as a precedent."

The committee's action was assailed by Representative Walker K. Jackson, Richard A. Cooper and Marshall Shepard of Philadelphia and Homer S. Brown of Pittsburgh who had contended for Judge Atlee's impeachment. They were supported by a petition of 25,000 signatures sponsored by the National Negro Congress and many civic and professional organizations.

Judge Makes Apology

Judge Atlee appeared before the Judiciary committee in person on Thursday and delivered his apology behind closed doors. Following the apology the committee issued a set of four conclusions which severely reprimanded the jurist for his statements condoning lynching.

According to testimony presented before the committee, the judge made the pro-lynch statements July 18 while sentencing Samuel Watson charged with having enticed two white girls.

Shepherd Condemns Committee

Rep. Shepard who is a Baptist minister and one of the most militant Race leaders in the East, registered disgust and contempt of the committee when he was informed of the action.

"It was a whitewash and a dastardly attack on our laws," he stated heatedly. "This committee and this house should either impeach the judge or else sit back with folded hands and do nothing."

Rep. Brown was likewise acrimonious in his statement. Said he:

'This report says to the judge, 'You have committed a crime, but we forgive you. Go back home and do it again.'"

In his apology Judge Atlee said: "The remarks I made in sentencing Samuel Watson were made by reason of the fact that I was thoroughly aroused and incensed at the gravity of the offense and the heinous nature of the crime, of which he had pleaded guilty, and not by reason of the race or color of the defendant.

No Prejudice, He Says

"I have no prejudice due to race, color or creed.

"All defendants stand equally before me in Criminal Court and receive equal justice under the law. I am opposed to mob violence.

"The remarks were indiscreet and injudicious and I regret exceedingly that I made them. I regret the inconvenience caused your committee and the House and I offer my sincere apology for the language used."

The committee's conclusions were as follows:

"1. That the remarks of Judge Benjamin C. Atlee were contrary to the spirit of the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Atlee Reprimanded

"2. That the remarks of Judge Benjamin C. Atlee were injudicious and intolerant. They constitute one of the class of judicial improprieties which, while the committee believed in this instance did not constitute an impeachable offense, are such as under other circumstances might subject a judge to impeachment proceedings.

"3. That remarks of this nature tend toward the breakdown and disruption of the orderly process of law and order which every judge is sworn to uphold and are of such import and gravity to the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that they should not go without stern reprimand.

"4. The Committee does censure and reprimand Judge Benjamin C. Atlee for the impropriety that he committed and in doing so has in mind that this censure and reprimand is only in the instant case and is not intended as a precedent."

See Impeachment In Future

The action of the committee, it was pointed out, in refusing to impeach Atlee was largely the result of the fact that no judge has ever been impeached in this state for statements made from the bench.

Although those urging impeachment of the jurist registered disappointment in the committee's action, a measure of satisfaction was gleaned from the belief that the groundwork has been laid in the fourth conclusion of the committee for the impeachment of the next judge who advocates lynching from the bench.

The statement admitted by Judge Atlee and which was the basis for the action taken against him follows:

"This is one of the most despicable offenses ever brought before the local court. It is no credit to the people of Columbia that they allowed you to be here in court today. Had they lynched you they would have been justified. I say that although I am sitting here to administer justice, it is most fortunate for you that the offense occurred north of the Mason-Dixon line. No court has to bother with cases of your kind south of that line."

Durham, N. C. Herald

August 7, 1936

Judge Censured For Lynching Remarks In Sentencing Negro

Pennsylvania House Committee Decides County Official Should Not Be Impeached After Investigating Charges Brought By Philadelphia Minister And Other Groups

Harrisburg, Pa., Aug. 6.—(AP)—The judiciary general committee of the state house of representatives censured Judge Benjamin C. Atlee of Lancaster county, tonight but decided he should not be impeached for remarks in sentencing a Negro prisoner.

The committee's report said Judge Atlee apologized to the group today.

The Rev. Marshall A. Shepard, Philadelphia, and Homer S. Brown, Allegheny county, Democrats, asked investigation several weeks ago of published reports that the jurist's comment in sentencing a Columbia Negro who pleaded guilty to molesting two girls was:

"This is one of the most despicable offenses ever brought before the local court. It is no credit to the people of Columbia that they allowed you to be here in court today.

"Had they lynched you they would have been justified. I say that although I am sitting here to administer justice. It is most fortunate for you that this offense occurred north of the Mason-Dixon line. No court has to bother with cases of your kind south of that line."

Brown termed the committee finding "one of the most deliberate pieces of infamy and white wash ever heard of in the history of this nation."

He said the declaration of independence and national and state constitutions forbid imperiling "life, liberty and property without due process of law."

Shepard said, "We should have had an impeachment or simply folded our hands and said 'we don't care about the law'."

Both Negro members moved the report be stricken from the record.

Harry E. Trout, Lancaster county Republican, contended the report could not be stricken from the record and was upheld by Speaker Roy Furman, Greene county Democrat.

With the committee's report, it was disclosed that the sub-committee which conducted a hearing voted four to three for impeachment.

Brown tried in vain to have the sub-committee's majority report accepted in place of the full committee's recommendations.

The sub-committee majority found the remarks attributed to Judge Atlee were "substantially correct" and were "of sufficient gravity to justify the presentation of a bill of impeachment."

It added the judge's statements were uttered "under such circumstances as to make them not only injudicious and improper, but also that they were so grossly improper, arbitrary and oppressive as to constitute an impeachable offense."

"Too many judges x x x are prone to forget that they are public servants elected and sworn to administer justice," it went on. "Possibly because of their long term of office some judges begin to feel that they themselves are above the law.

"Fortunately no outbreak occurred (as a result of Atlee's remarks), but the seed of the unwise words and improper thought have been sown. x x x We trust that the foul seed planted may never sprout no matter how much water and sunshine it may get; but suppose the seed is not dead, what will be the attitude of this judge who encouraged the action? x x x"

Those who wanted impeachment complained Judge Atlee "thought too little, it seems to us, of the whole incident."

While not condoning the crime which induced the judge's remarks, they said, "but language of this kind does not deter crime, but encourages the commission of further criminal acts."

The minority report against impeachment found Judge Atlee "is accused of making only this one injudicious and improper statement, undoubtedly made in the face of the heinousness of the particular offense and not because Judge Atlee himself believed in anything but the orderly processes of the law. The remarks as made were addressed to the defendant, and although in public, not to the public at large."

"Although in the making of these remarks Judge Atlee has been hasty in his conclusions and bitter in his denunciation of the defendant, and although his judgment was erroneous and the remarks were injudicious, the evidence most certainly does not indicate any conduct on his part involving any moral turpitude or gross impropriety. x x x"

Lynchings - 1936
Side Lights.
O

Tennessee.

5507

WOMAN IS ATTACKED, OFFICERS HUNT NEGRO

Constitution

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Feb. 18.—(AP) As Mrs. Denver H. Perry, 26-year-old wife of a coin machine company manager, lies in a critical condition in a hospital tonight, a posse searched Davidson county for a negro she said attacked her with an ax.

The attack occurred at the Perry home at Donelson, near Nashville, about noon. The negro fled in the Perry automobile, which was found abandoned near the home.

The sheriff's office reported it had not established a motive for the attack.

2-19-36

Both Mrs. Perry's wrists were almost severed. She also was cut severely about the face and head.

[illegible]

Authorities were first notified of the attack when Mrs. Perry, herself, called Nashville police headquarters. Inspector John Griffin reported her as saying in a hysterical voice: "A negro has almost killed me." Officers found a blood-stained ax in the dining room.

NEGRO SHOOTS POLICEMAN.

[illegible]

DYERSBURG, Tenn., March 22.—(AP)—Patrolman Moss Armstrong was shot and critically wounded by a negro early tonight as he sought to investigate a disturbance. Patrolman Rex Summers said as Moss approached the negro's home the negro opened fire with a shotgun. The negro escaped, but a posse started a search.

3-23-36

Lynchings-1936
Side Lights

Texas.

5505

Seek To Bar Negroes From Texas Town After Lynch Attempt

WHARTON, Tex.—(C) A mob of about three hundred white men and women were hot on the trail of ten colored persons, six men and four women, bent on a "mass" lynching in retaliation for the alleged murder by stabbing of Ted Simmons, white, 30-year-old special officer who is said to have met his death while attempting to quiet a disturbance among colored veterans celebrating the receipt of their bonus.

The colored side of the story has not as yet been told. Officers were rushing the prisoners to different jails to foil the mob.

Just why Simmons is designated as a "special officer," and what he was doing among colored people who were "celebrating" is not revealed in first accounts of the tragedy.

Foiled in their attempt at a "mass" lynching, enraged white citizens of El Campo presented a petition to the town council to force colored citizens to move from El Campo to Ox Blood, a settlement near the town.

Slayings, Murder, Lynching Follows Gun Play In Texas

LUFKIN, Texas.—(ANS)—Race feeling of a high tension brooded in Lufkin following the murder of one Negro and the lynching of another by whites, as the result of an argument on July 4 over the price of a rented car.

Willie Castle was trailed to a house in the Negro section of town and his body was riddled by the bullets of a posse led by Hardy Purvis, ranger captain, and Sheriff H. C. Billingsley, following a gun battle in a taxi office in which O. T. Boatwright and three white men, Elmer and J. B. Newberry and their father, Charlie Newberry, were fatally wounded.

Boatwright and two of the white men died on the scene of the shooting. The third white man, Elmer Newberry, died of his injuries the following night.

According to witnesses, the altercation arose when Boatwright and Castle went into the Newberry taxi office went into the Newberry bile the Negroes had rented.

Castle Is Struck

The argument arose, it is said, when the elder Newberry demanded 30 cents additional after the men had paid the stipulated price, and the men refused. Castle was struck over the head with a pistol. Castle walked out of the office, but returned when he saw the white men beating his friend, and ordered them to stop. When the elder Newberry turned on Castle with a pistol he was shot down.

In the ensuing gun battle, J. B. and Elmer Newberry were mortally wounded. Boatwright was shot down by J. B. as he and Castle fled from the scene.

Castle is reported to have escaped and hid in the attic of a house, where he was found early the next morning by a posse of officers and irate whites. The Negro's body was riddled by rifle, shotgun and pistol bullets.

Surviving Castle are his widow and a 12-year-old son. Boatwright leaves a wife.

Mrs. Castle was reported to have been jailed by officers after the shooting, and later released.

Castle
July 17-36

Lynchings-1936
Side Lights.

Texas.

5506

New York Herald-Tribune

JAN 11 1936

Mob Reported Forming To Lynch Four Negroes

Louisiana Tenants Held on Charge of Killing Landlord

SHREVEPORT, La., Jan. 10 (AP).—A mob of nearly 100 white men was reported forming near Bethany, twenty miles southwest of here, tonight in an effort to lynch four Negroes who this morning allegedly killed E. W. Harris, employee of the Arkansas-Louisiana Gas Company. The Negroes were taken into custody by the Sheriff of Panola County, Tex., and placed in the Carthage jail this afternoon.

Harris was killed in a fight with several of his tenants, who first beat him over the head with an iron bar, then shot him through the right eye with a pistol. The tenants fled from the home where the fight occurred when Harris attempted to make the Negroes move.

Officers of Louisiana and Texas were scouring bottom lands south of Bethany in search of other members of the Negro family.

Lynchers Ask Negro Ban

Leaders of Texas Mob Seek Segregation Settlement

[illegible]

WHARTON, Tex., June 19. — Leaders of the lynch mob that yesterday fired a Negro dance hall in El Campo after a futile hunt for ten Negroes, today circulated petitions asking the segregation of the Negro population in a special settlement.

Th armed mob of 250 had toured all jails in the county seeking the Negroes who were held in connection with the stabbing of Special Officer Tip Simmons at a dance to celebrate payment of the bonus.

Seven of the prisoners, it was learned, were lodged in Nueces County Jail at Corpus Christi. Officers refused to divulge the whereabouts of three others.

Four of those held were women

Lynchings -1936
Side Lights
6

Virginia
6

5508

PROBE OF VIRGINIA GUN BATTLE ENDS

Advertiser

Coroner's Verdict Says Sheriff Murdered, Negroes Slain Resisting Arrest

GORDONSVILLE, VA., May 16.—(AP)—A coroner's verdict that Sheriff William B. Young was murdered and that a 65-year-old negro and his sister were killed while resisting arrest on a felony charge apparently ended Orange County's investigation into a 6½-hour gun battle between the negroes and officers last night.

5-17-36

Stuart Robertson, Orange County prosecutor, said he planned no further inquiry.

Montgomery,
Ala.

Five officers and posse members were wounded by the barricaded negroes before the house was set on fire and the negroes shot as they sought to flee from the flames.

Sheriff Young, accompanied by three officers, went to the house of the negro William Wales, early yesterday afternoon to serve a warrant for a lunacy commission after Mrs. George Zinn, a landowner, reported that the negro had stalked with a gun along a fence between his property and a cemetery in which she was having a monument erected.

Refused admittance, they returned later with municipal officers, 10 State troopers and a number of posse men. Tear gas was thrown in and a door panel broken open. Sheriff Young was shot through the heart as he reached through the opening to unbolt the door.

Sergeant Wayne Carr and State Trooper Steve McWilliams were wounded as they started toward an outhouse officers were trying to set afire.

The battle began in earnest after this, machine guns in the hands of officers pouring a steady fire into the house until far into the night. Deputy Sheriff Ed Payne, of Culpepper, dipped his shirt in gasoline, set it afire and tossed it into an outhouse to burst into flame which spread to the house.

State Trooper E. L. Keyser's machine gun dropped Wales as he sought to escape through the front door from the flames. His sister Cora was killed as she was seen through a window.

The bodies were removed from the charred embers today and buried in a single grave on the negroes' farm.

John O. Rhodes, director of the division of motor vehicles and head of the State police force, who directed the attack last night, represented the negroes 10 years ago in unsuccessful efforts to prevent condemnation of a part of their property for the cemetery which entered into the preliminaries of the tragedy of last night.

The University Hospital at Charlottesville, reported that Sergt. Carr was the only officer seriously wounded. A bullet entered his side, narrowly missed his spine and ranged downward into his leg.

Others wounded were: C. L. Young, brother of the sheriff, wounded in the jaw as he sought to retrieve his brother's body; Oscar Mundy, Barboursville policeman, shot in the arm and back; State Patrolman S. L. Williams, shot in the arm and leg; Edward Bushong, Culpeper newspaperman, flesh wounds.

Sheriff's Slayer Killed By Posse

Advertiser

Four Others Are Shot By Negro Tenant Farmer; Sister Slain In Battle

5-16-36

GORDONSVILLE, VA., May 15.—(AP)—State police machine gunners killed a crazed negro and his sister in their flaming tenant cottage near here tonight.

Montgomery
Ala.

The negro. William Wales, 65, had killed a sheriff and wounded four men during a six-hour seige.

Wales died when State Policeman E. L. Keyser, a stuttering tommygun in his hands, sighted him through a second-story window. Cora Wales silhoutted against flames kindled by thrown flares, died from a pistol bullet. Both bodies were consumed by the fire.

For hours Wales and his sister, firing from both sides of their shack, had kept a force of 200 to 300 police and citizen-possemen at bay.

Sheriff William B. Young, of Orange County, was the man killed. He fell on the porch of the negro's house, one half mile from here on the Barboursville Road, when Wales resisted an attempt to arerst him at about 4 p.m., today.

One of the wounded is C. L. Young, a brother of the sheriff, was hit when he attempted to drag his brother's body out of the line of fire.

Two State police officers, Sergeant Wayne Carr and Patrolman S. L. McWilliams, both wounded, were dragged from a temporary refuge under the porch as the house began to burn.

Also wounded was Policeman Oscar Munday of Somerset. Munday was hit by a bullet from a 30-caliber rifle as he attempted to drive a steel-sheathed highway truck against the cabin.

CRAZED NEGRO KILLED BY VIRGINIA OFFICERS

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5-16-36

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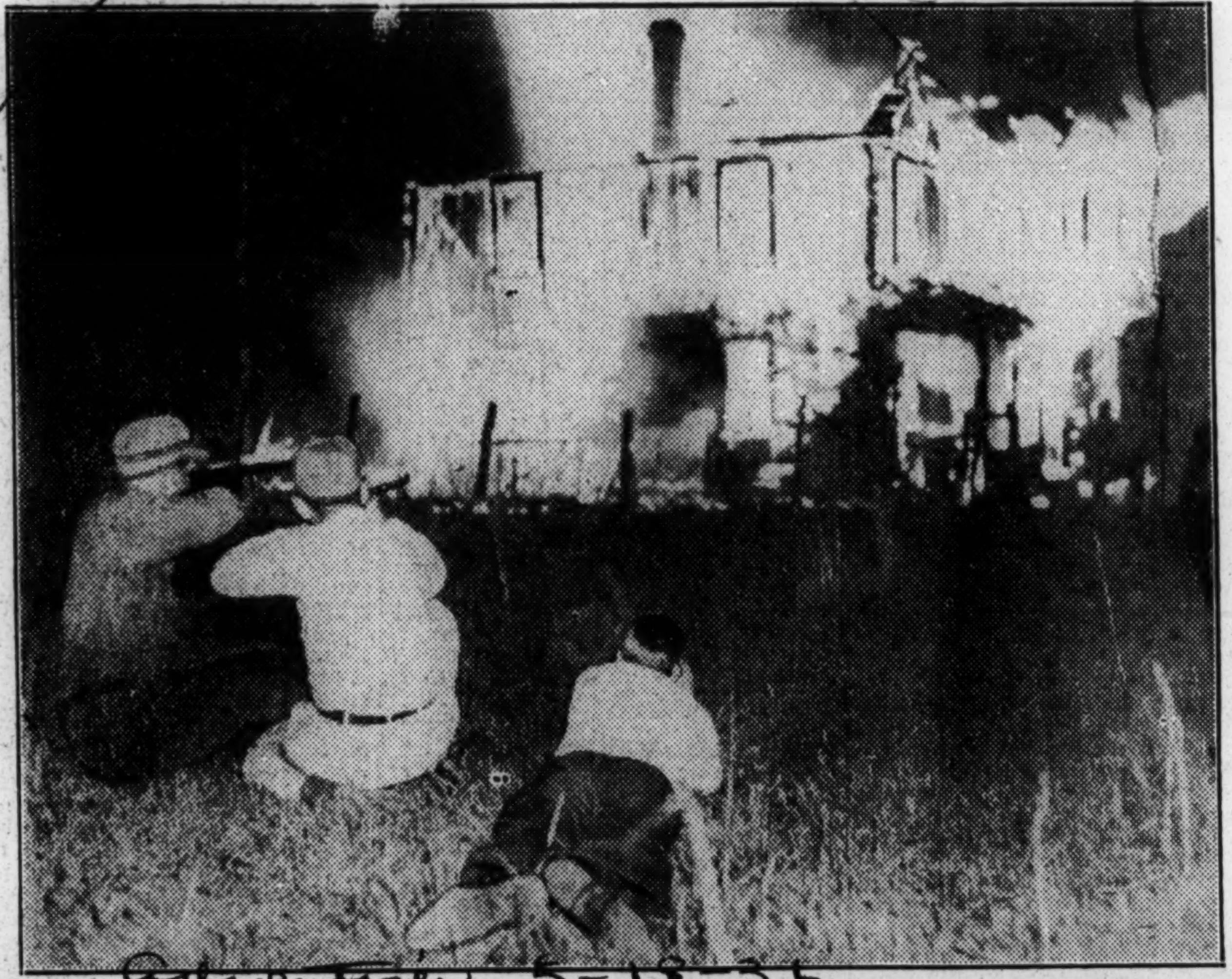
Negroes Die in Burning House Defying Posse



Advertiser 5-18-36

BESIEGED in their home at Gordonsville, Va., after killing Sheriff W. B. Young, of Orange County, William Wells and his sister, Cora Wells, negroes, waged a grim, six-hour gun battle with a posse, members of which finally fired the building and shot down the pair as they tried to flee. Possemen are shown shooting into the blazing house at the peak of battle. Sheriff Young had sought to arrest the negroes for threatening a white woman. (Associated Press Photo)

Faced Lynching If Taken Alive By Va. 'Posse'

Refused Chance To Surrender In 7-Hour Battle

BY P. BERNARD YOUNG, JR.

GORDONSVILLE, Va.—William Wales died in the 65th year of his fear-ridden life of seclusion for an offense he never committed.

Had he escaped alive from his flame-enveloped ten-room home near here Friday, after the seven-hour pitched battle, he and his 62-year-old sister, Cora, trapped with him, would have been lynched.

He and his sister, willing to surrender during the course of the spectacular battle against 2,000 or more police and armed civilians, including 'teen age youths, were denied an opportunity to do so, for with the first spilling of blood the temper of the community was against them and the mob, decorously called a "posse," was to be satisfied with nothing but blood for blood.

That Wales died for an offense never committed is a fact substantiated by the words of the very woman he is supposed to have threatened. Mrs. George Zinn, wealthy widow living on an estate adjoining Wales' homestead, now vigorously denies having been threatened by Wales, or that she asked authorities to arrest him for any reason.

"Wales never bothered me in his life. I saw him Friday near my cemetery with a gun, but when I approached he silently turned and went back to his house," she was quoted in several reliable sources as saying.

On Sunday afternoon this writer and another Journal and Guide representative sought unsuccessfully to locate Mrs. Zinn, but did talk then and later to several persons close to her. Their identity is being withheld for the present for what this newspaper regards as sound reasons.

EXCLUSIVE FACTS LEARNED

From authoritative sources the Guide reporters learned:

1—Mrs. Zinn's brother, Black Campbell of Princeton, N. J., called her about midnight Friday upon learning of the day's trouble. She promptly informed him she had not been threatened by Wales or anyone else.

2—That sometime Friday—the fateful day—she went to Richmond. Saturday morning she saw newspaper accounts of the pitched battle and her role in the tragedy. She hurried back to Gordonsville and made vai nefforts to have her position in the matter clarified. She left here Monday for New York, and was not expected back for a week.

3—That she told any and all who would hear her that Wales was harmless though, to her, eccentric, and that she was not, and had not, intended to be responsible for his arrest for any reason. Three white persons, one related to her, among others, vouch for her statements in this connection.

4—That while the warrant which precipitated his arrest was for the purpose of producing him before a lunacy commission, there was no evidence to indicate he suffered from anything greater than an obsession he was subject to lose his property and suffer bodily harm That he was at no time known to be violent, had no police record, and at worst, simply told those coming on his land that they were very unwelcome.

5—That for the past two years he was not known to have left the grounds of his home, to ever have visited nearby Gordonsville, or to have had any visitors except Luke Hunter, a trusted friend who made his various purchases of foodstuffs and other necessities. That he refused to venture outside the limits of his little farm because he believed it was to his best interest not to, and that he had received threats because of his insistence not to sell his land.

All during the seven-hour battle claiming a toll of three dead and five wounded, hot-headed members of the oversize "posse" repeatedly asserted that if Wales and his sister got out alive they were going to tie them to the rear of an automobile and rag them up and down the road until they were dead and then burn their bodies.

NEGRO CITIZENS THREATENED

The crowd was not a posse. It was too big, too uncontrolled, too angry. A posee is a group of deputzied citizens acting with police authority. Part of the "Posse" rushed about the town and outlying districts in automobiles, with men standing on the running boards waving guns and warning "all you g..d 'niggers' get out of the way before we kill every last one of you."

On the streets Friday night and all Saturday and Saturday night, colored pedestrians were elbowed off the sidewalks, threatened, and ordered to get to their homes or suffer the consequences. That more fighting and bloodshed did not take place seems to be due to the level-headedness of Negroes here.

It was definitely a lynch spirit which pervaded this little town and even on Sunday, the earliest Guide reporters could get here from Norfolk after news of the fatal gun battle and fire reached that city, there was a distinct tenseness.

For several hours spent on the grounds of the Wales home and in the vicinity, no other adult colored persons, with the exception of two couples visiting from "about forty miles away" were about. None walked the streets. Riding about town we saw local Negroes keeping cosely to their homes and front porches.

While the writer took pictures there was plenty of elbow-nudging by those of the hundreds of whites milling about the ruins of the Wales' home who observed him. They were never sure we were reporters, for the tiny but powerful candid camera being used probably was taken by them for an ordinary kodak and we were thought of, doubtless, as mere sightseers. We endeavored to give this impression, earlier deciding to leave the larger and obvioussly news-picture camera locked in our auto.

GUIDE REPORTERS UNWELCOME

We were very unwelcome; that was made distinctly clear. On Saturday those Negroes hardy enough to venture on the Wales place were ordered away at the point of guns. By Sunday the community temper must have cooled some. Besides it was Sunday; maybe that helped us to get our news and picture rather than orders to "git going."

The charred bodies were left near the ruins from 10:30 Friday night, at which hour the gory battle ended with the death of the Wales pair by bullets and fire, until almost noon Saturday. Then a white undertaker took them to his parlors, put them in a single pine box, and buried them in a single grave in a corner of Wales' yard after brief services were conducted by the Rev. Daniel Cave of the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church here.

Some wanted to let them get out alive to lynch them later. Some in the armed force wanted to take them alive and let the law take its course. They were in a vast majority, for a larger number wanted to kill them on sight. It was learned from a young colored man who somehow was permitted to remain on the scene of the fighting for a considerable period that Wales several times sought vainly to signal his willingness to surrender, such efforts being met with volleys of shots.

After several such attempts he gave up the idea and kept fighting until the fire drove him and his sister into exposed positions, when they were promptly shot down.

The crowd swelled as the fighting went on and at one stage of the proceedings a white aviator, Cliff Zieger, suggested dropping a bomb on the Wales home. He flew over the dwelling and was preparing to carry out his intention when he learned that State Police Sgts. Wayne Carr and S L. McWilliams were trapped beneath the porch of the house. They were not rescued until the fighting had been in progress for five hours. At this the house was set on fire.

Wales and presumably his sister fought for an hour more as the burned around them. At intervals the aged man would shout from one window or another: "I'll kill every damn white that comes near—I'll fill the cemetery with you all."

Not until the roof had fallen in did Wales appear at the main doorway, gun in hand. He waved a farewell to the crowd as he fell dead under a hail of lead.

His sister, a towel over her face looked out of a window and waved a pistol shortly after her brother was killed. She was struck by bullets and fell behind the sill. A state trooper signalled to cease firing and crept cautiously to the opening. Up bobbed the woman's head as she struggled, though wounded, to carry on the fight. Then, like a man slaughtering some vicious animal, the trooper emptied his rifle into her head.

It was two hours later, after the house had cooled, before the crowd went into the shambles. Some of the shouting mob hacked Wales' body for souvenirs. Next morning school children were among those who raked the ashes of the home for the gold the two were rumored to have hoarded.

COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED

According to citizens here, after the first mad frenzy of the siege had died down, both Wales and sister had brooded over the unsolved murder of a brother. They turned their home into an arsenal. The elderly man, who still went around the cemetery which he used to tend, lived in constant fear of mobs and expressed the belief that some day he might be lynched.

Neighbors feared that he would mistake a funeral cortege for a mob and do exactly what he did Friday, causing the fatal siege. On more than one occasion Wales and his sister disturbed burial parties as they stalked, sentry-like, outside the house with pistols strapped to them and carrying rifles.

This was known to officials. Had these officials acted at the first signs of obsessed minds in the aged pair, such a shocking drama as that staged last Friday could never have taken place, citizens said.

It was learned here that Wales' brother, James, was slain after he had killed a white man he caught forcing his attentions on his sweetheart.

That caused him to fear a similar fate. In addition, he once owned part of the land that is now Maplewood Cemetery, maintained by the town of Gordonsville. In 1926 that part of his land was condemned for cemetery purposes, though he fought the case bitterly, retaining as counsel John Q. Rhodes, director of state police, who oddly enough directed the latter stages of the assault on Wales barricaded home Friday.

Following that setback, Wales brooded over what he always felt was the injustice done him and became to be regarded as very eccentric. His collection of ammunition cracked and sputtered long after the guns were silent. Although described as half crazy because of his unusual precautions aaginst further injustices, he was generally conceded to be harmless.

Just after one o'clock, Friday, Police Justice T. W. Ross of Gordonsville called in Luke Hunter, Wales' trusted friend, and questioned him as to the man's sanity. When Hunter told him Wales at worst was merely "odd at times," the justice remarked: "I've known Wales a long time and I don't think he is actually crazy."

This seems to have been a preliminary to the issuance of the lunacy warrant, which was issued despite Hunter's testimony and the justice's own opinion at that time.

Lynchings-1936
Side Lights-

Virginia

5509

Relative Of Pair Shot Down In Virginia Found Living In City

Age
5-30-36
New York

By ALFRED A. DUCKETT

While the entire nation alternately shuddered in horror and flamed with indignation at the lynching of Cora and William Wales by an armed mob of [illegible] officers and private citizens in Gordonsville, Virginia, Saturday, May 16, in Brooklyn, a comely young matron mourned their passing and wondered over the future possibility of ever obtaining a heritage which she has reason to believe is rightfully hers.

That young woman, Mrs. Sarah J. Riddar, of 619 Jefferson avenue, believed to be the only living relative of the brother and sister to be reached, was located by The New York Age Friday afternoon. The dead couple are Mrs. Riddar's maternal aunt and uncle.

The first news she had of the tragedy, said Mrs. Riddar, was when she read about it in the paper.

"I was shocked," asserted the brownskinned young woman. "When I think of how hard those two old Christian people struggled and labored to keep their ownership, it really hurts."

Although admitting that she knew very little about the events that transpired during the past two years at the Gordonsville property, not having been in that vicinity since 1926, Mrs. Riddar nevertheless claimed positive knowledge of the fact that the county authorities had been making very desperate attempts to dislodge the couple from the extensive estate so that it might be used to extend an adjoining cemetery.

Sees Plot By County

The report that the seige and slayings were the result of this long campaign to move the couple seemed quite likely, said Mrs. Riddar who further expressed extreme doubts concerning the credibility of the alleged charge of menacing a white woman which is said to have been made against her uncle.

The property which originally belonged to her grandfather, Manoah Wales, said Mrs. Riddar, was a large and rich territory, having an orchard and yielding many farm products. She scoffed at the theory that authorities had been attempting to condemn the holdings, declaring that her own mother had contributed money toward building an entire new house some twenty-seven years ago and it was thus impossible for it to have fallen into such terrible condition while it was still inhabited.

Questoned concerning the extent of the property, Mrs. Riddar, as an illustration of the size, declared that all the dead of the large family are buried on it.

In 1931, she said, she received a letter from a Baltimore lawyer, asking her to sign an enclosed paper as a means of protecting her interests and those of any surviving relatives. The enclosure proved to be an affidavit which averred that she was the rightful heir to the "three acres" of the estate of Manoah Wales.

Hears From Lawyer

Realizing that, as she knew it, the estate was more than three acres in extent, and suspecting the letter to be part of a plot to deprive the rightful owners of a portion of it, she ignored the letter, she said, and has heard nothing from that source since.

Asked about her knowledge of of any other members of the family, Mrs. Riddar said that she was now attempting to find a sister of her uncle, William, who had been last heard from in Baltimore, Maryland. The murdered man also had a wife and six children in Williamsburg, Virginia, she declared, but efforts to locate any of them had thus far been unsuccessful.

In the comfortable living room of her home where she lives with her husband, the 29 year old woman admitted that she felt the property should be now hers but betrayed little eagerness to visit it. "Frankly, I'm scared to death to go there by myself." she declared.

RICHMOND, VA.
NEWS-LEADER

MAY 19 1936

SICKNESS IS NOT CRIME.

In a brief editorial article, which doubtless was inspired by its publisher General H. L. OPIE, the *Staunton News-Leader* said on Sunday:

> There was evidently a lack of leadership in the tragedy of Gordonsville Friday evening when a sheriff was killed and four deputies and state police were wounded by a crazed Negro. . . . With such a large crowd of ~~unor~~ganized citizenry converging and firing on a small barricaded shack, the only wonder is that the casualty list was not much larger. Good leadership would only have needed ten to twenty men, at the most, to accomplish its mission.

Had this criticism come from a civilian, it might be brushed aside, but when it appears in a paper published by one of the outstanding Virginia soldiers of the world war, it must be taken seriously. General OPIE knows what he is talking about, for in the Meuse-Argonne he directed many a detachment in operations against German machine-gun nests.

It is, of course, as General OPIE would be the first to admit, an exceedingly difficult matter to control a crowd that gathers when police officers are attacking premises where barricaded persons are determined to "shoot it out." Inexperienced zeal frequently takes the cast of the mob mind that voluntary participants are more dangerous to the police and to their fellows than to the culprit. The state of affairs often is an exaggeration of what occurs at every large urban fire: Police have to devote most of their time to keeping onlookers out of the way. Nevertheless, General OPIE is right: Good leadership on all such occasions is the first essential.

Apart from that aspect of the subject on which our Staunton contemporary is able to speak with authority, there is another: How often is it necessary to treat sick people as criminals? Evidently, WILLIAM WELLS was demented. Whether his impulse was homicidal, we cannot say. It probably was. Even so, ninety-nine times in a hundred, a psychiatrist rather than a cordon of police, and patience rather than force, get the best results in dealing with excited victims of mental disease. Some of these days, Virginia will give selected police officers, state, municipal and rural, a thorough annual course of instruction. When that is done, The News Leader will try to prevail upon the authorities to include in the course some lectures on the modern methods of dealing with the insane. It is as unfair to the police as to the demented person to "get the man" by tactics that should be employed only against a nest of outlaws.

One thing more: Mrs. JESSIE DANIEL AMES, of Atlanta, yesterday told Southern newspaper publishers, on behalf of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, that all their editorial efforts against this type of crime were frustrated by their news about lynchings. Reports, said she, usually are written in language "that fairly bristles with expressions calculated to awaken the ever-present fear and hate in the less-privileged members of the white race."

This is a just indictment. News writers sometimes catch the spirit of the mob, when they write of the search for alleged rapists, and even when that passionate note is eliminated by intelligent copy-reading, there is danger that headlines and news stories of lynchings will be written in an inflammatory style to have "punch" and "color." These sometimes-desirable qualities of news writing are entirely out of place in reports of such explosive subjects as race relationship.

We do not pretend, of course, to say that this newspaper has found the preventive, or in the hurry of a day's writing, always applies what it believes to be the preventive. The News Leader has the rule, however, never to use the word "Negro" in the headline of a story of sex violence and, in the story itself, to dwell as little as practicable on the race of the felon. We cannot see why newspapers that take the utmost pains to eliminate all reference to race when the culprit is of specific European origin should ceaselessly dwell on racial origin when it chances to be African. What should be true of criminals assuredly is true, in still more compelling degree, of the mentally sick.

STATESVILLE, N. C.
DAILY

MAY 19 1936

Because They Didn't Understand.

"A packing box grave under a clump of flowering blackberry bushes tonight wrote the end to the mad effort of an elderly negro and his sister to hold their home against a white man's law they did not understand," is the way a news gathering agency tells the story of a Virginia tragedy in which a white sheriff also came to his death.

The old negro and his sister, natives of the community in which they died, came into an inheritance and started to purchase land thereabouts, and soon had considerable holdings. Later payments became due and they could not, or did not, meet them. They lost their lands through foreclosure. But they did not lose a long rifle and an old pistol, and with these they undertook to defend themselves against ejectment under the delusion that they were acting within their rights.

To day they are dead, and finally at rest under the blackberry bushes. They were riddled with machine gun bullets as they sought to escape the flames of their ramshackle old ten-room house—all because they did not, or would not, understand. An upstanding law enforcement official is dead too—because he did understand.

The news story does not say so, but reading between the lines one can understand that these two old negroes had bought beyond their means and beyond their needs, probably among white neighbors who resented their presence and their methods. It is barely possible that they could have been made to see the light without the use of a torch and machine guns, had they been approached in the sincere effort to undo what an over-zealous real estate man had done. Before they became sullen and determined was the time to argue and convince.

Ignorance of the law does not excuse, but the use of machine guns and fire-bombs is not the best method of imparting knowledge. William Walles and his sister and a sheriff are dead, largely because William's neighbors did not measure up to their responsibilities.

Cemetery Siege

June 5 36

Newsweek

"Open up!" ordered the Sheriff of Orange County rapping at the front door of a rickety ten-room frame house next to Gordonsville, Va.'s cemetery one afternoon last week. The answer was a rifle crack. A bullet plowed through the door straight into the sheriff's heart. Leaving his body crumpled on the porch, his two companions turned and fled, sure now that the old Negro cemetery caretaker, William Walles, and his old sister Cora, had gone completely mad.

Ordered out of the house some days before, Caretaker Walles and sister had refused to budge, had begun patrolling the place with rifles and revolvers in their hands. Last week a white woman complained that William Walles had threatened her with a gun. The Orange County sheriff swore out a lunacy warrant, went to bring the pair in.

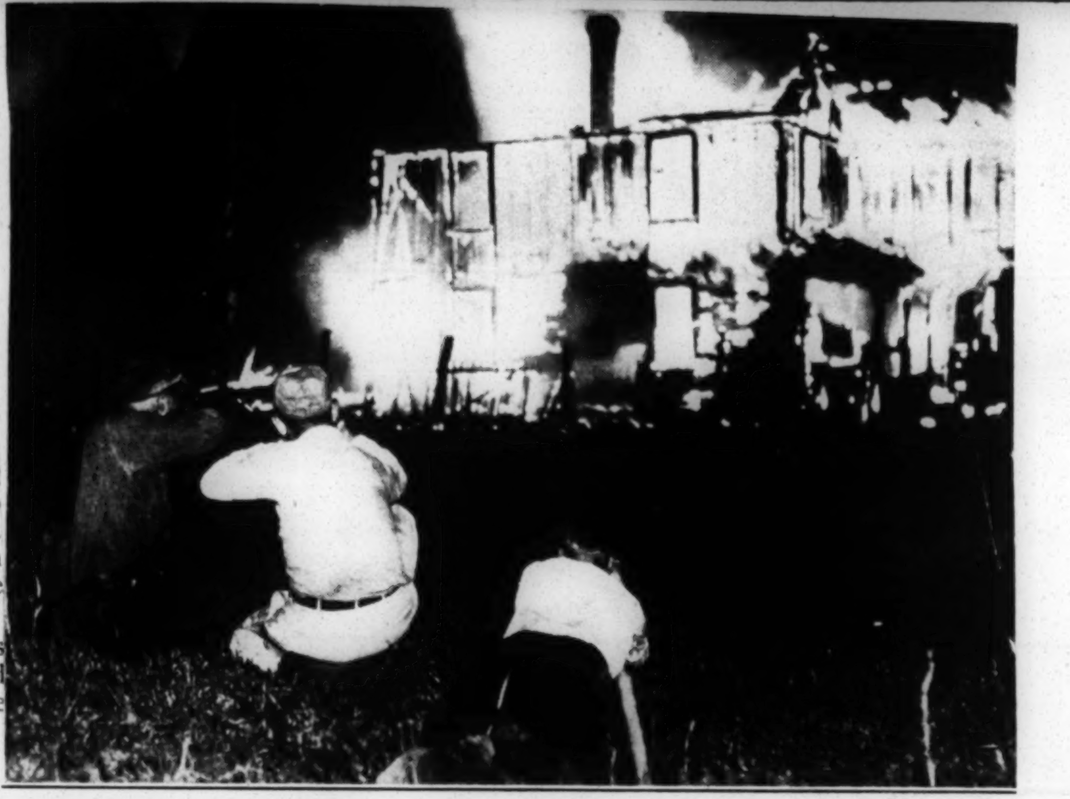
His corpse was still on the porch when a detachment of State police appeared. Popping away from second-story windows, the crazy blackamoors would not let them get near it. As darkness fell the sheriff's brother made a rush, was stopped by a bullet in his cheek.

News of the siege swept over the countryside. Blue Ridge mountaineers swarmed down with squirrel guns. State troopers brought machine guns. Townsmen arrived with rifles, pistols, shotguns. Searchlights on Orange County fire trucks flickered across the house's blank, ominous face. Soon, crouched behind trees, knolls and fences, a posse of some 300 men were sending a crackling thunder of gunfire rolling through the peaceful hills. Yet the beleaguered blacks inside the house held firm. One after another five policemen and a countryman went down with bullets in their flesh.

As the siege went on, hour after hour, the baffled crowd began to yap and howl like hounds at a treed possum. Tear gas fumes were whiffed away by a sharp breeze. Hurled torches fell short of their mark. Then, early in the sixth hour, a State trooper took off his shirt, soaked it in gasoline, inched up to an outbuilding, lighted the shirt, tossed it into the shed. Up it blazed and the breeze swept the flames across to the house. The tindery old clapboards went up with a roar.

Cora Walles bobbed up at a blazing window, crumpled in a hail of machine-gun bullets. Moment later the roof collapsed and William Walles ran squealing to the porch. A burst of bullets toppled him back into the fire.

Two hours later, when the embers had grown cool enough, members of the posse raked out the Negroes' bodies, sliced off bits of roasted flesh, carved out pieces of blackened bone to take home for souvenirs.



Pictures Inc.

GUNNERS AT GORDONSVILLE

Out of the embers, black bones as souvenirs.

Lynchings-1936
Side Lights.

Virginia

5510

Planet
5-23-36
Richmond Va

Bold Stand Costs 3 Lives At Gordonsville

(By Staff Correspondent)

GORDONSVILLE, VA.—Brooding over real and imaginary wrongs suffered by the Wells family at the hands of their neighbors, William Wells and his sister, Cora Wells, died fighting for revenge last Friday and wrote with their blood a frightful chapter in the history of Virginia.

Battle Rages Seven Hours

The battle in which the two elderly Negroes finally became engaged with 2000 beseigers armed with machine guns, tear gas bombs and every conceivable kind of fire-arm and aided by two fire departments, ended only when the darkness of night enabled the beseigers to evade the unerring aim of the beseiged pair and set fire to their home from the rear.

The trees, stones and other breastworks used by the beseigers in their attack on the house bore mute evidence of the accuracy of the aim of the avenging members of the Wells clan. Bullet holes were everywhere. It beggars the imagination to contemplate the casualty list had a charge been made on the house where the two master marksmen undertook their task with deadly earnestness.

The beseigers were either lacking in the courage displayed by Pickett at Gettysburg or by the Light Brigade in the Crimean War or deemed it more expedient to wait for the safety of the cover of night to kill and to cremate the two enraged defenders of their castle and improvised fort.

Maple Wood Cemetery

Maple Wood Cemetery which furnished the immediate cause for the catastrophe which sent three human beings into eternity, resulted in the wounding of five others and in the destruction of property adjoins the Wells' property and was once a part of the the estate until the strong arm of the law dispossessed the aggrieved man of it through condemnation proceedings. The house in which William Wells and his sister perished, embattled by flames and steel, was located on the knoll of a hill which overlooked the cemetery and was considered one of the most beautiful locations in the county and its environs. Regardless of the judgment of men or of the righteousness of their decrees William and Cora Wells never recognized them and paid the extreme penalty in resisting their enforcement They sleep on that peaceful hill which after all may be only a few steps removed from being included in the domains of Maple Wood where the rich and privileged find last resting places.

A Wierd Story

The tragedy, the last scene of which was enacted on that fateful Friday winds back into the years. Nearly ten years ago, James Wells, a brother of William and Cora Wells was shot and killed under mysterious circumstances as he was entering the home of his girl friend. No solution of the killing was ever made. The girl-friend was tried twice, the first trial resulting in a hung jury and the second in acquittal. Accidental shooting was the final verdict but rumor challenged it, and charged it to a mixed love affair. James Wells was thrifty and had acquired much property. After his violent death, it is said all of his property was sold and is now in the possession of white people. A preacher who was seen in the house following the killing made mysterious trips from the country on the days the trial was being held and never testified as to what he knew of the circumstances surrounding the killing of James Wells. Two brothers of the slain man left the county and their whereabouts have never since been known. The only known surviving member of the family of ten is a sister who lives in New York. William Wells was away from the county when his brother was killed and his family became separated and their property dissipated. He shared, however, the idea of the family that their misfortune had resulted from a conspiracy.

Returns Home

He came back about three years ago and was apparently perfectly normal mentally. Then another short trip to an unknown destination. Six months ago he same back to Gordonsville and people say he showed signs of insanity. He carried his rifle around with him everywhere. He accosted people and strangers and neighbors alike probably laboring under the delusion that they were trespassing upon the family property which had passed into other hands, by the decrees of the law

The climax was reached on last Friday in Maple Wood Cemetery when the curtain began to fall on this ten year old tragedy. He resented encroachment on land which was his before the condemnation proceedings. The sheriff came to arrest William Wells, but the door was slammed in his face by the sister. Coming back later, reinforced by state troopers the sheriff met his death as he sought to effect forcible entry into the house. The battle was on and death and destruction followed in its wake. The story as related by a local newspaper reads as follows:

The officers first went to the Negroes' home with the warrant after Mrs. George Zinn, wealthy landowner, had complained to police that Wells had "stalked a fence with guns" between his place and a cemetery in which she was having a monument erected.

Threatens Officers

"I will fill the cemetery with the dead if they come after me," officers said Wells boasted as they prepared for the siege.

State Trooper McWilliams, his injured arm in a sling, discribed the prelude to the battle.

"Sergeant Yeager, Traffic Officer Dulaney, Sheriff Young, Sergeant Carr and I went up to the house to arrest the crazed Negro. Wells had barricaded himself in and refused to come out.

"As we came up to the house, we proceeded to fill it with tear gas, using both bombs and projectiles. We threw in enough gas to kill twenty or twenty-five people.

"After we had thrown in the gas, we walked up on the front porch and I kicked a hole in the door. Sheriff Young reached through the hole to turn the key and the Negro shot from upstairs through the door.

"His first bullet hit the sheriff square through the heart. The sheriff managed to get off the porch by himself, staggered out to the gate and fell dead. I was standing beside him and got two bullets, one in the right forearm and one in the upper arm.

"Sergeant Carr and I started down off the porch toward that little outhouse they were trying to set on fire and the Negro opened fire again. Carr got it badly. The bullet struck him in the left side and ranged downward in the body.

Aim Is True

"The Negro must have been using a rifle, because his aim was so true and the bullets too effective.

"That man Carr certainly has courage. He lay breeding on the ground, but managed to crawl under the house. Then he turned to me and said, 'go ahead, Mac, take care of yourself. I'm all right.'

"I wouldn't have left him for a million dollars. I crawled up under the house with him. We could hear the tramp of the Negros' heavy shoes on the floor but we were afraid to shoot because he could spot us and fire through the floor."

The officers remained hidden until machine gunners opened up an attack after dark that enabled them to be dragged to safety.

Using a road "cut" fifty yards away is their breastworks, the officers and their aides rained bullets on the structure for hours while the occupants kept up an exchange.

House Becomes Furnace

When Deputy Sheriff Ed Payne of Culpeper, flung his gasoline-soaked shirt into the outbuilding, the end of the struggle was at hand. Flames shot high through dry timber and quickly spread to the house which turned into a raging furnace.

The Negroes, forced to the openings by the heat and flames, provided clear targets, silhouetted against the leaping flames in the background for officers guns.

Similar To Ware Case

The tragedy on Friday was reminiscent of a similar tragedy in Orange County in 1921.

Walter Ware, a Negro, killed Sheriff William Bond and Town Sergeant Julian Boyer one night in October, 1921, when they attempted to arrest him on a minor charge. When a posse surrounded Ware in a barn the next day, he wounded ten or twelve of them with a shotgun.

The father of the slayer entered the barn and tried to persuade his son to come out and surrender, but the younger man refused. The posse set fire to the barn, and heard an explosion, which they believed was that of Ware's gun, which he turned on himself.

Chalked Up As Lynching

The Calvin News Service has issued a release to all Negro newspapers in which it classifies the Gordonsville affray as the first lynching in Virginia since the enactment of the Byrd Anti-Lynch Law.

Gruesome Gordonsville

A FEW hundred yards from the town limits of Gordonsville today a once well built and comfortably furnished home is nothing but ashes, its two occupants and one police officer are dead, and five others, policemen and civilians, are wounded. It is not a pretty picture. The official reason behind the tragedy is that WILLIAM WALES was wanted on a lunacy warrant, resisted arrest, and fatally shot the sheriff leading an arresting party.

With WALES died his sister, against whom no warrant had been issued. She was ruthlessly shot down, as was WALES, when she sought to flee the blazing inferno their home had become at the end of a terriffic several-hour gun battle between her brother and police, the latter aided by what was described as a "posse" but which in numbers (2,000 at one time) and actions more accurately qualified as a mob.

One would expect G-Men and police hunting down a known killer-criminal to employ the bloody methods used at Gordonsville to effect a capture, dead or alive. But one does not expect, even in the South with its callous regard for Negro life, such tactics to be brought into play against a man without a police record and merely suspected of being mentally deranged, and against his innocent and aged sister.

Of course the death of the Orange County sheriff at the hands of WALES hopelessly thrust the original motive for his arrest into the background and brought forth the "posse" and all the uncontrolled actions of the mob. JOURNAL AND GUIDE reporters visiting the scene Sunday found ample evidence of the mob temper still exisiting, and a cowed colored population was still keeping close to its own homes.

There was no intention to take WALES and his sister alive after the bloody opening scene. It has been learned that he sought to signal his willingness to surrender several times, but on each occasion was answered by a volley of rifle, shotgun, pistol, ad machine gun fire. When at last he was forced out of his barricaded home by flames, started by police, he was forthwith shot down and forced to die in the flames. When his sister appeared at a window, silhouetted by the flames, she was shot dead. The promptness with which she was fired upon gave her no opportunity to surrender, if that was her intention as presumably it was. What other motive could she have for exposing herself to the mob without?

The background of the whole trouble is involved. Briefly, WALES owned some land which was wanted

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for the expansion of an adjoining white cemetery. He did not want to sell. There had been previous litigation, and years before a brother of his had been killed under ugly circumstances. His determination to hold on to his homestead made him enemies. There were threats. He feared for his life. For two years he had not left his own property. A friend purchased and delivered the necessities of life to him. He kept rifles and pistols and ammunition; often he walked about his property with a gun or pistol. But he harmed nobody.

These actions could easily be taken for "queerness" or insanity. Whether he was crazy in the strict sense of the word will now never be known. The mayor of the town had some misgivings about issuing a lunacy warrant earlier in the day, but they seem to have been overcome by the insistence of some person or persons. Mrs. GEORGE ZINN, wealthy white widow, was credited in first reports as having filed the complaint resulting in the effort to arrest WALES. She was quoted in Gordonsville Sunday as vigorously denying responsibility for the police action against WALES, as well as repudiating reports he annoyed, insulted, or threatened her.

That leaves several vital questions unanswered, and the case having been officially closed by a verdict that WALES and his sister died while resisting arrest, they probably will remain unanswered. It is never an easy matter to cut through the passions and the contradictions in such a case as this, but one thing seems certain. If WALES were merely suspected of being mentally unbalanced, there was no necessity to go about his arrest in the knock-down-and-drag-out manner which drew fatal bullets from his rifle. A man whose front door is smashed and hears some one say, "Let's go in and get him," is apt to react defensively in the identical manner WALES did. Especially when he feared for his life and property. Whether he did so fear with or without justification is beside the point.

Of the same pattern as the arrest procedure is the action of officers in permitting a great crowd of men and boys, far beyond the size or requirements of a posse, to join in the shooting. That was merely giving free rein to the mob spirit. One may be well sure that enforcement of the law was forgotten and that the mass killer instinct was rampant when 2,000 or more armed men and boys engaged in the uneven battle. A posse is supposedly a deputized group of citizens enlisted in an emergency. Were the 2,000 men and boys so deputized? We doubt anyone has or will even claim that they were.

Ominous Calm Pervades Gordonsville On Sabbath, Guide Reporter Discovers

By ALBERT L. HINTON

GORDONSVILLE, Va. — It is late afternoon of the Sabbath Day here in this little community nestling at the foot of the Blue Ridge mountains.

A characteristic stillness, almost ominous in its significance, pervades the town. It is the time of day when friends and neighbors gather on their front porches to talk, and perhaps drowse, as the end of a perfect spring day draws to a close.

It is quiet, unusually quiet—too quiet, the sort of almost death-like stillness which precedes a major battle, or which comes at its end.

There is activitty, however, but it comes as a result of a noticeable increase in traffic. As a matter of fact the town's main street is taxed to its capacity as cars from all sections of the state drive hurriedly through and proceed out State Highway No. 15 for a half mile to join other vehicles of every description, all bent for "the Wales' place."

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And here, a radically different view greets the eye. The late afternoon sun, sending its warm rays through the blue haze which hovers over the distant Blue Ridge ranges, looks down upon a scene where all is confusion. For nearly a mile on each side of the road these vehicles are lined up. Through traffic is almost at a standstill, but human beings—white human beings—are in evidence everywhere.

IN THE NATURE OF CELEBRATION

The scene leads one to believe that a celebration of some kind is in progress, and in a way, it is. These people alight from their automobiles, trucks, school busses, or what have you, and, without exception, head up a narrow dirt roadway about 150 feet long which leads to a scene of utter desolation.

The ruins of what was but a few hours ago a frame ten-room house is the mecca of all these "tourists."

It is the spot where 65-year-old William Wales and his sister, Miss Cora Wales, held off what was termed a "posse" numbering more than 2,000 persons Friday afternoon and night, in a seven-hour gun battel, and died finally, in a barrage of rifle, shotgun and machine gun bullets as they sought refuge from the blazing inferno which was once their home.

It is the spot where Sheriff William B. Young of Orange County was shot to death in his tracks by Wales as the former sought to force his way into the Wales' home Friday afternoon, allegedly to serve a lunacy warrant on the aged man whom some called insane.

It is the site where Fayette Young, a brother of the sheriff, Gordon Ray Mundy, Orange County garage owner; State Police Sergeants Wayne Carr and S. L. McWilliams, and George Messong, newspaperman, were wounded, more or less seriously, during the six-hour siege.

10,000 ROUNDS FIRED

It is on this location that more than 10,000 rounds of ammunition were fired in a pitched battle which raged under the glaring spotlights of fire trucks, and mountaineers from the nearby Blue Ridge foothills, and citizens armed with revolvers and shotguns, state and local police with machine guns and automatic rifles, sought to force into the open to be mowed down, an elderly man and his aged sister.

It is here that hours later, after the ruins had cooled sufficiently, members of the "posse" and hundreds of spectators raked among the ashes and recovered the charred remains. It is here that grease spots indicate where they lay for many additional hours as a steady stream of morbid curiosity seekers gazed down upon them before the remnants of what was once two human beings were placed into a single wooden box and hurriedly consigned to the red clay soil which they sought to hold against such tremendous odds.

This is the site where the Rev. Daniel Cave, pastor of the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, spoke simple funeral rites with no relative near to claim the bodies, or to sorrow at their passing.

Where there were hundreds just a scant 24 hours before there are no officers in this crowd, and no Negroes with the exception of two newspapermen, two couples who say that they came "from forty miles away," and a few local youngsters. The local colored folks are not anxious to visit the scene, either through fear or because of natural disgust.

If through fear, they remember Friday afternoon when on one occasion a car filled with members of the "posse" careened crazily through town with one of its members hanging on to a running board brandishing a gun and exhorting all Negroes: "All right, you B—k S—s O— B—s, get back in there and stay before we kill every one of you."

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CHURCH SERVICES POORLY ATTENDED

Church services in Gordonsville's three Negro churches have not been so well attended today, but its white citizens have unctiously and piously filled their churches in large numbers. And this afternoon they are all headed for "the Wales' place."

Some of these "tourists' 'are dirty and dusty from industriously digging into these ruins. There are both men and women, boys and girls, babies in arms looking on curiously and wondering what all the fuss is about.

"Look, I've got me a souvenir, it's a half dollar," exclaims a portly, red-faced individual, at the same time exhibiting his prize with hands blackened with ashes and soot.

"Did the Nigger own all this land?" another scrawny man inquires of a companion.

"That Negro sure was shooting, from what I hear," still another observes in general.

In the midst of the ruins an undersized, bony-looking, and undernourished young fellow stands with the remains of what appears to be a .30 caliber rifle clasped tightly in his hands as though he is afraid it will run away. A youngster emerges triumphtly with the remnants of a revolver.

Women are scouring the ruins and loading up their cars with burned pots and pans and any other kind of household articles they can find. It is even being told that one looter found a hundred-dollar-bill in the debris but was unwise enough to shake it and then had to see it fall to pieces before his very eyes.

LOOTING GOES ON

Men are taking broken bits of plowshares, and kids are appropriating to their own uses everything that's not nailed down. Even the pig pen has been stripped of its occupants and no chickens or turkeys are to be found anywhere although people are saying that the deceased couple owned at least 150 small fowl.

A rumor is going the rounds that an old trunk owned by the victims is filled with jewelry and other valuables and it is being scoured from top to bottom. Another rumor is in circulation that Mrs. George Zinn, wealthy white landowner, who is charged with having sworn out the warrant against Wales, is denying responsibility and is trying in vain to have the impression corrected.

Another fact comes to light and it is not a rumor. On Friday afternoon the 22 Orange County colored schools were holding their annual field day celebration at the Gordonsville Graded School. Sheriff Young went to the athletic field and arrested a youth on a charge of having a gun in his possession. The officer locked his prisoner in the local jail and in less than a half hour lay dead with a bullet in his heart.

Information also comes that at least one boy not more than 12 years of age, with a .22 calibre rifle, was in the "posse" on Friday, and that his younger sister was assisting him by collecting ammunition from generous-minded members of the group. It is also related that Wales tried on several occasions to surrender but each attempt was answered by a burst of gunfire.

Some members of the "posse" were quoted as saying that if he ever came out of "that house alive we'll tie him behind a car and drag him all over this county."

We learned that the "posse" members came from as far away as Richmond, and from the surrounding communities of Charlottesville, Orange, and Culpeper.